the Resene magazine

WIN! 33 PRIZES inside

habitat

summer 08 rrp$7.95 issue

dare to be different
let your imagination fly

colour forecast
what's hot for 2009

out of the blue
beachy hues to use at home

award-winning home breaks the rules

a seat in the sun
stylish outdoor seats for summer

make yourself a home

Stay cool with
Resene Cool Colours

Have you ever thought your home would look great painted in dark colours? Were you put off the idea because too much sunlight and heat absorption – a potential issue with dark colours – would damage the paint and heat up your home to unbearable levels?

Think again. Now there are dark colours that perform just like much lighter colours, reflecting much higher levels of solar energy.

Resene Cool Colours, which are available only from Resene, use revolutionary pigment technology to reflect much of the sun's energy. Dark Resene Cool Colours can reflect as much heat as some light colours, opening up a whole new range of possibilities for exterior colour choices. Less heat means less stress on the paint and the substrate, and less heat transferring inside. How cool is that?

Resene Cool Colour technology makes painting exterior surfaces in dark colours both easier and safer. It can be used on all sorts of exterior materials and applications, from weatherboards and concrete to windowsills.

The facts in black and off-white.

Incredibly, Resene testing has shown these two colours reflect the same amount of infra-red light from the sun, something that was impossible to achieve in the past. The grey is a standard paint using traditional pigments. The black is a Resene Cool Colour. With a Resene Cool Colour on the job, you can make sure your summer barbecues are outside your home, not inside.

Decorating? Think dark thoughts.

Until now, your exterior colour choices may have been limited to whites, light greys and minimal use of dark colour highlights on small areas. Now, it's time to think dark.

A comprehensive selection of rich, dark colours are available as Resene Cool Colours and they will open up endless possibilities with bold new looks. Don't let yourself be held back by old technology and traditional thinking. Beat the heat this summer with Resene Cool Colours from your Resene ColorShop.

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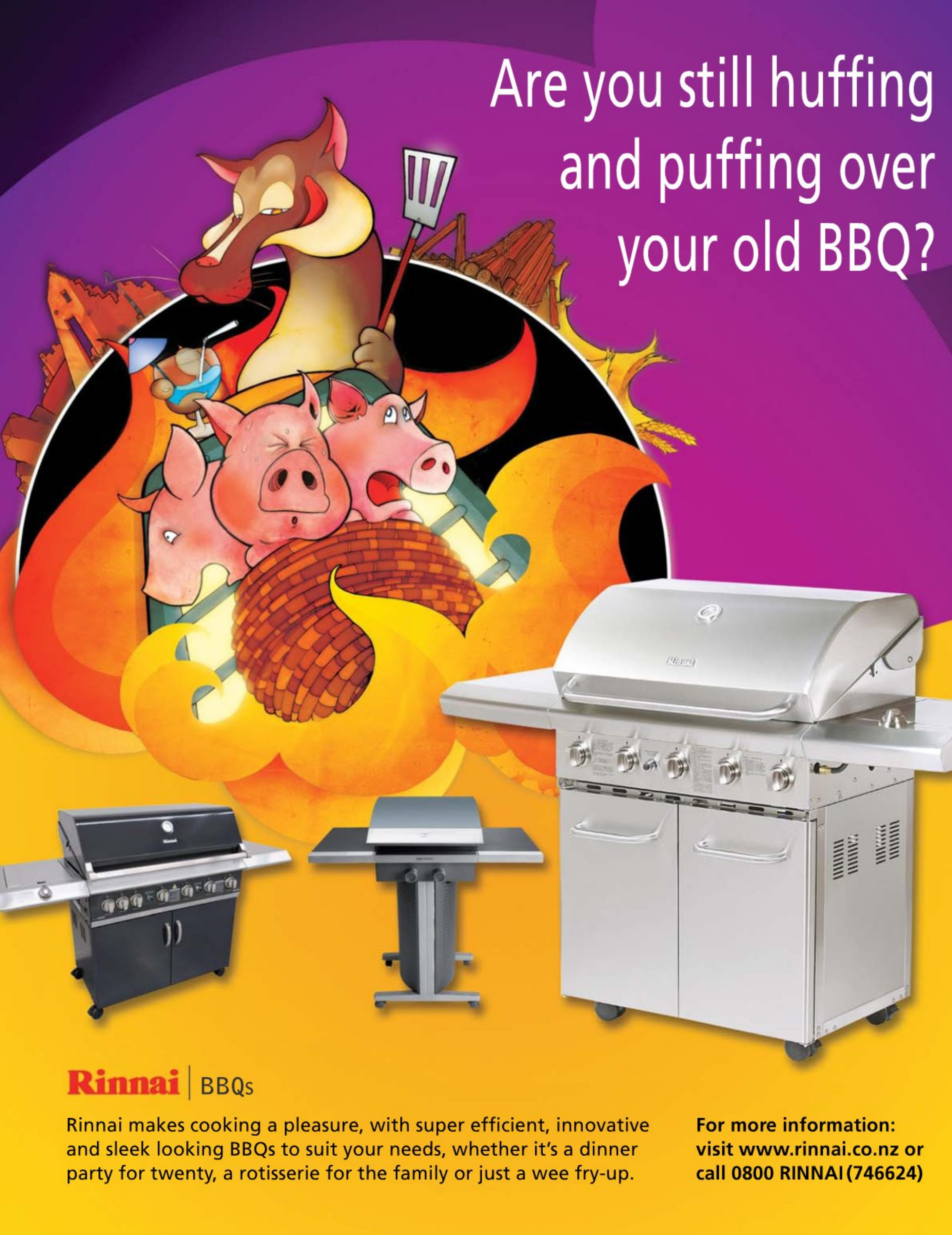
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Resene Fandango

Resene Wavelength

Resene Yellow Submarine

welcome

Antipodeans are known for their innovation and sense of self. These qualities are trademarks of our approach to design at this end of the world. It's that 'give it a go', number eight wire spirit that sees us search for a creative solution rather than settle for how things have always been done.

Some of our innovators beaver away in the garden shed quietly achieving, not seeking recognition – we're a humble lot and in times gone by we would have got our heads chopped off anyway if we stuck them up too high.

Today, it's a bit different. We've always cheered on our winning sports teams and now we just love it when our creative endeavours and commercial clevernesses are highlighted.

We're getting used to not going with the status quo and trying something a little different – even if that's just painting our living room purple for a season. This issue celebrates some of the clever, innovative and just plain wacky ideas we can try in our own homes.

Sharon Newey **editor**

Sharon

Being a little out of the ordinary is something we celebrate at Resene and is a big part of how we came about.

Ted Nightingale, back in his builder days in 1946, was having trouble finding a finish to go over the concrete buildings he was making. Rather than admit defeat, he tinkered around in his garage and created a cement-based paint. Other builders seeing the new product were keen to have it for their projects and Ted's tinkering to solve his own problem, soon solved the same problem for many other, and was the start of the Resene story.

In the years to follow, many other Resene products joined the range, each solving another new problem that had popped up along the way. Ted's daring to be different is still a part of Resene today.

As humans we are all so different in personality, yet we all face common challenges, so much so that one person's clever little idea, can be just the nifty solution that many others need. And with continued clever ideas, we all have better access to better technology, options and more and more choice.

But with all this choice, one thing is clear – the best choices we make are the ones that suit our lifestyle, our personality and the way we want to live, so next time you are tempted to break out from neutral walls, take the plunge. After all, you only live once and you can always paint over it!

The Resene Team

Editor: Sharon Newey
Managing Editor: Julian Andrews
Advertising Manager: Carolyn de Freyne
Phone: 0272 808 070, email carolyn@jonespublishing.co.nz
Production Director: Lisa Morton
Production Managers: Esther Laurie, LauraGrace McFarland
Publishers: John Baker, Julian Andrews
Design: Maxim Group Ltd
Design Team: Mary Davy, O'dea Fu
Printing: PMP Print

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Phone: +649 360 6424
Facsimile: +649 358 7291
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Resene
the paint the professionals use

In Australia:
Resene Paints (Aust) Ltd
PO Box 785, Ashmore City
QLD 4214
Website: www.resene.com.au
Email: advice@resene.com.au
Phone: 1800 738 383

In New Zealand:
Resene Paints Ltd
PO Box 38242
Wellington Mail Centre
Website: www.resene.co.nz
Email: advice@resene.co.nz
Phone: 0800 RESENE (737 363)

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Cover look
A painted barbecue? Why not. Dare to be different with sizzling colours from the new The Range 2009 with Resene X Factor, Resene Mexican Wave, Resene Flashback and Resene Bandit. Stain the deck with Resene Treehouse from the Resene Exterior timber stain range, toss some sausages and seafood on the barbie, and relax. Barbecue supplied by the BBQ Factory.

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"Get painting to create the right frame for your treasures."

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You want to build the most energy-efficient home possible, but with so many products and systems to choose from and so many issues to consider, it can feel like a full-time job making the right choices and knowing who to trust.

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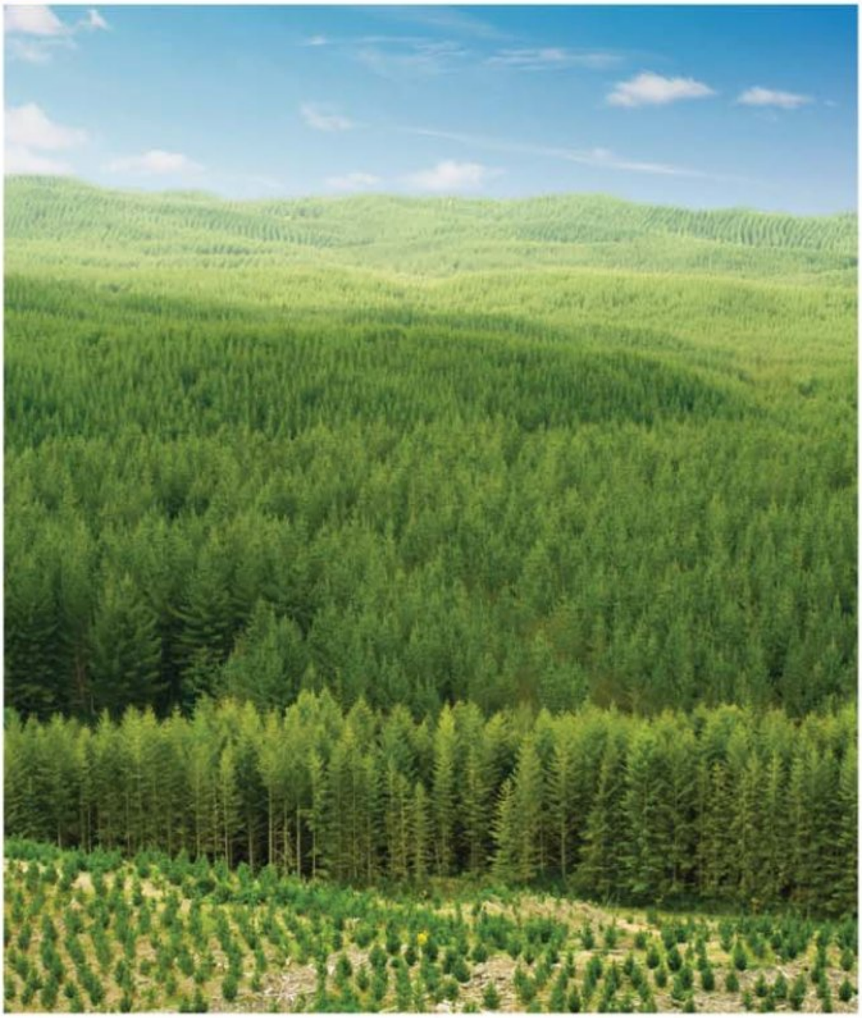

Too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is one of the biggest factors in global warming. So the big question is; how do we get those harmful levels of CO_2 out of the atmosphere and safely locked up?

Actually, the answer's very simple. Use more wood.

Once a tree has breathed in CO_2 from the atmosphere it will hold it, locked in its cells, unable to escape, until such time as burning or natural disintegration releases it. And that could take years. Decades. Centuries even.

Nana's antique chest of drawers, for example, still holds all the CO_2 that its parent tree absorbed over 400 years ago.

AND HOLD...

Your wooden house, or wooden deck, are doing exactly the same thing right now. Storing CO_2 and looking good while they do it.

Help fight climate change. Use more wood so we can plant more trees, and start an ever-increasing cycle which can only do good – for our society, our economy and our planet.

It's a simple exercise really. As simple as breathe in…and hold.

For more information on this amazing and infinitely versatile material visit:

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NZ WOOD
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out of the blue

From moody azures to delicate duck-egg and vivid sapphire, sea blues are the perfect colours for summer.

"The soothing shades of blue are renowned for their relaxing properties."

Calm, relaxing, refreshing, cooling – as the colour of the sky and sea, blue stands for peace and tranquility. Blue also stands for loyalty and tradition – it's one of the most popular colours for uniforms and a personnel professional might advise you to wear it for job interviews because of its association with trustworthiness.

Aside from its ingrained association with male gender in Western societies, blue (not red) traditionally stands for love, which is why a bride carries or wears 'something blue'.

As a water colour, blue is often associated with hygiene and is a favourite packaging colour for cleansers and personal hygiene products.

Did you know people are more productive in blue rooms, and that blue is an appetite suppressant? Because it doesn't occur naturally in food, we have a primitive response that blue food is poisonous. So use it in the home office but not the dining room… unless you're on a diet.

Blue is known as a cool colour, and in decorating its tranquil nature has made it popular for bedrooms. It has an unfair reputation as being cold and depressing. Certainly, if you choose a grey-based or icy blue for a south-facing room, it might not make you feel cheerful. But with today's paint technology and colour subtlety, blue can easily become a warm turquoise or a deep and reassuring navy. It can have the richness of cobalt and lapis tones, or the sophistication of teals and dusky slate shades.

Any colour, of course, changes depending on its environment and what you place it next to. Put pale blue next to white and it will become classically Cape Cod, refreshing and beachy. Put navy with gold and it becomes regal. Turquoise with yellow, it's fun and funky.

So take some inspiration from these pages, and go blue. H

>

Resene Maestro

Resene Zomp

Left Background: Resene Maestro. White chair, $799, Zebra cushion, $219, Indian book, $229, and Root stool, $129, from Republic Home. Droplet lamp from May Time Marketing. Pearl shell box, $27.50, and resin Kudu horn, $210, from Corso de Fiore. Table, optical glasses and brass vase, stylist's own.

Right Resene testpots, clockwise from top: Resene Wavelength, Resene Zomp, Resene Comfort Zone, Resene Maestro, Resene Quarter Tasman.

Above right Background: Resene Zomp. Marcia Scott stool, $379, Sweet Pea owl, small $75, and Little Scruff, Pluto Blue, $36, from Eon Design. Wood & Scherer cushion $98, Wood & Scherer 'Birdsong' trolley, $179, and pink letter 'A', $79, from Madder & Rouge. Alimrose Design giraffe, $24.95, from Abigails. Beba Bean 'My First Patents' shoes, $52.50, from Verde.

See overleaf for stockist details.

"You can almost hear the waves caressing the shore."

Above Background: Resene Wavelength. Elk antler lamp, from May Time Marketing. Glass bottle, $269, wooden vase, $89, white Hurricane lantern, $99, offering dish, $299, and coral, $100, from Republic Home. Small glass buoy $92, from Corso de Fiore. Blue bowl, stylist's own.

Above right Background: Resene Comfort Zone. Natural side table, $105, from Corso de Fiore. Belgian oval street lantern from May Time Marketing. Botanic plaque, $70, from Abigails. Cotton throw, $150, from Verde. Blue bowl and white bowl with pegs, stylist's own.

Right Background: Resene Quarter Tasman. Assorted Adobe crockery in Stone, Charcoal, Powder Blue and White from Nood.

Resene Comfort Zone

Resene Quarter Tasman

Resene Wavelength

Stockists Abigails 09 445 3072; Corso de Fiore, www.corsointeriors.co.nz, 09 307 9166; Eon Design, www.eon.co.nz, 09 368 4860; Madder & Rouge, www.madderandrouge.co.nz, 09 522 1062; May Time Marketing, www.maytime.co.nz, 09 526 4274; Nood, 09 357 3519; Republic Home, 09 361 1137; Verde, 09 521 1165.

styling Lianne Whorwood **pictures** David Whorwood

KOVACS
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off the shelf

New products, places and ideas for the home.

v carpet's in the bag

Cavalier Bremworth has relaunched the carpet bag to celebrate the launch of its new range of carpets. The company has joined forces with top local designer, Roanne Jacobson of Saben, to create the limited-edition carpet bag, which has been made from its new luxury Tussore carpet and leather.

With only 50 made in the initial production run, two of the bags were auctioned recently at the Luminous NZ Art Of Glass Awards, sponsored by Cavalier Bremworth with proceeds going to Kidz First. The carpet company's latest range features five new designs and 50 colours. Jacobson said the luxury carpet was easy to work with. Carpet bags were popular throughout Europe during the 19th century and were often made out of oriental rugs. Visit www.cavbrem.co.nz.

kidzone >

The Resene KidzColour chart has undergone a revamp, keeping the favourites from the previous colour chart combined with some new metallics, bolds and pastels. Featuring 77 colours in total, plus samples of Resene Pearl Shimmer, Resene Pixie Dust and Resene Crackle, this chart is ideal for children's rooms and spaces. The new chart features Resene Environmental Choice approved paint for the colour chips for accurate reproduction of the colours. Once you've chosen the colours, the colour chart can be used by the kids for a fun game of splats and ladders.

The new Resene KidzColour charts are available from Resene ColorShops or order your copy online from www.resene.co.nz or www.resene.com.au.

the nine >

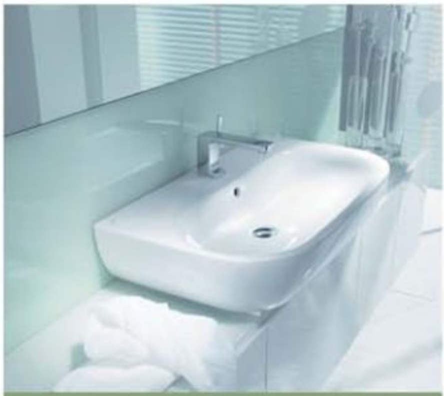
Rose & Heather has launched an exclusive range of furniture made from nine extraordinary swamp Kauri logs. Extracted from a small swamp north of Dargaville, these nine logs fell more than 1800 years ago. Buried close to the surface, they haven't darkened as is common with most swamp Kauri. Covered in migrating sands, they now resemble the pale New Zealand Kauri of earlier times. Rose & Heather has reserved these logs exclusively for the light and airy Newport range. This contemporary range is an elegant mix of pared back, informal design and beautiful timber with its distinctive linear grain and cool, Scandinavian aesthetic. Each piece is unique. Once these nine logs are gone, it is unlikely more of their colour and standard will ever be found again. Visit Rose & Heather, 14 Morrow St, Newmarket, ph 09 520 4442.

Resene Starbell

upholstered wall art >

Funky and unique, these retro-style upholstered wall tiles are handcrafted in New Zealand by Holly Hargreaves and sold through REAL Aotearoa. Fantastic as gifts, Upholstered Art comes in its own ribbon-wrapped glossy red box and is packaged ready to hang. Available in three ranges – kiwi as, kitch en vogue and ei ei oh – they are 20cm x 20cm and cost around $69. REAL Aotearoa is a gallery store featuring artworks from throughout New Zealand, specialising in applied art, jewellery, ceramics, glass and wood. Stores are at 62 Queen St, Auckland, or 101 Cashel St, Christchurch or visit www.realaotearoa.co.nz.

Resene Cherish



^ true to its name

Keramag has created a new dimension in individual bathroom design with 4U, a highly varied, multi-combination bathroom range. This series allows highly individualised bathroom layouts whether you're planning a family bathroom or small ensuite and includes an extensive product range (including bathroom furniture), characterised by a timeless, clear design for comfort and functionality. For further information and availability contact Hydrotech, ph 09 527 2276.

Resene Cross Country

v contemporary contrasts

Building on the popularity and versatility of previous Resene wallpaper collections, the new Resene Wallpaper Collection 2011 is designed to take homes and buildings into the next decade. The new collection features popular patterns in modern neutral hues through to striking black-meets-white that looks fabulous in feature areas. Colour selections are contemporary and reflect the complex neutral hues that are seen in furnishings, fabrics and paint. These are teamed by some striking deep accent colours for added interest.

The Resene Wallpaper Collection 2011 is available exclusively from Resene ColorShops.

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< raise the curtain

Having trouble finding a curtain fabric to go with your favourite Resene colour? Then the new Resene Curtain Collection may be just what you need. It's a range of 29 fabrics designed to complement popular Resene colours. The selection includes fashion stripes and patterns through to neutrals designed to complement a wide range of colour schemes. Select your favourite Resene Curtain Collection fabric and get your curtain specialist to produce curtains/roman blinds or other drapery to suit, or purchase pencil pleats delivered to your home from your Resene ColorShop. See www.resene.com/curtains for a list of stockists.

timber on line v

NZ Wood will be showcasing the exceptional qualities of wood with a new resources website to be launched this month (September). The website will feature inspirational examples of wood-use, a comprehensive directory of wood products suppliers, and 'how to build in wood' guides for builders and serious DIYers. Wood is a very renewable raw material and using more wood is a great way to fight climate change. It has a number of excellent attributes – it's a durable, natural and attractive product with numerous building applications. Visit www.nzwood.co.nz.

v summer's here

With a fresh new look for summer, Kovacs introduces the Bella settee and chair covered in a vibrant Designers Guild fabric, Shima in colour Turquoise (on the settee) and Kibushi in colour Green (on the chair). The lamp, side and coffee tables, and vase are from the Kovacs 'casa fini' collection of finishing pieces. For further information ph 0800 807 799 or visit www.kovacs.co.nz.

concrete colours up >

Blending coloured concrete into your desired scheme just got easier, with the matching of Resene colours to the various tonal ranges used by concrete colouring specialist PeterFell. PeterFell has more than 60 colours grouped into seven tonal groups, namely Neutral, Terracotta, Stone, Charcoal, Brown, Sandstone and Aqua, complemented by Resene colour selections.

With recent renovations to the company's Auckland showroom now complete, designers, builders and homeowners can see all their options in one place. With more than 400m2 of flooring, featuring more than 40 colours with many textures, the showroom makes the design choices simple. The Auckland showroom is next to the north-western motorway at Patiki Road, or visit www.peterfell.co.nz.

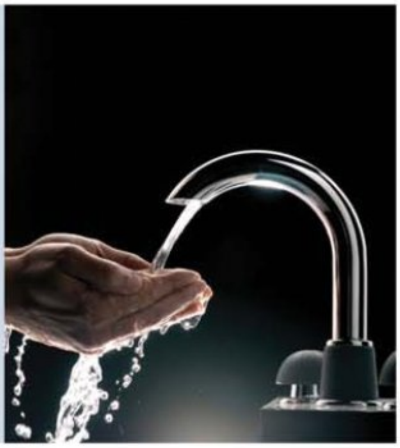
< yes, it's a lamp

The magnificent Coco Catkins table lamp, reminiscent of wild desert flowers, is hand crafted from sustainable plantation woods. At 75cm tall, it retails for around $869 and is distributed by May Time Marketing, ph 0800 MAY TIME for stockists.

from the sea >

For your next beachfront project, take a look at the special tap range with fine, handcrafted porcelain handles and trims evocative of kina and seashell designs, from the house of Lladró. Among other exciting new architectural series from Foreno are the d38 and Mila ultimate minimalist ranges. To view the Foreno product range, visit www.foreno.co.nz.

Resene Alaska



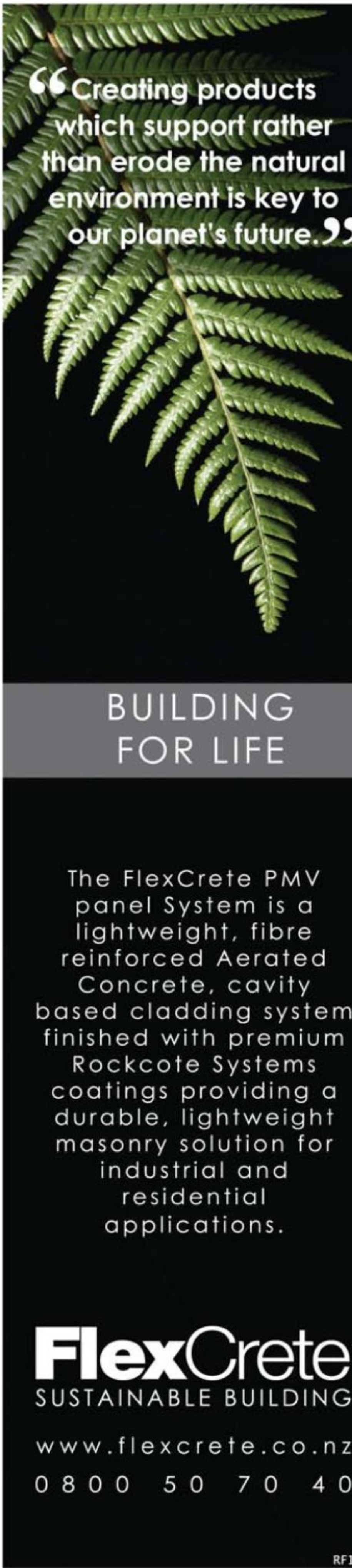
^ eco stripper

Sea to Sky's water-based paint stripper is not only friendlier to the environment and biodegradable but it's also simple to use. The product has been awarded the New Zealand Master Painters Best New Paint Product. It can be applied to remove coatings adhered to all types of metal, concrete, masonry, brick and timber. It is virtually odourless with no dangerous vapours, making it ideal for both internal and external projects. Sea to Sky is also a safer option for the removal of lead-based paints. Now available in a range of sizes from Resene ColorShops.

interior design service launched

Furniture outlet Forma has now extended its customer services to include interior design. Interior designers Fiona McLeod and Gemma Hudson bring the latest creative wing to Forma, specialising in colour consultancy, spatial layout, fabric and furniture. With experience in the furniture and interior design industries they assist Forma customers to achieve the complete look in their home or work place. Forma's interior design service can be as simple as a one-hour consultation to help get people started with design ideas or a complete package, including overall new home development or renovation, interior design and project management. For more information ph 09 368 7694 or visit www.forma.co.nz.

Resene Deep Impact



< building for life

FlexCrete is the latest advancement in exterior cladding available in New Zealand and incorporates 40% 'new recyclable' material in the form of fly ash, a material traditionally discarded into landfills.

FlexCrete's revolutionary new Pro Masonry Veneer system can be screwed directly over a 20mm cavity batten. The system provides a weathertight, high-impact resistant, durable and sustainable exterior cladding solution for residential and commercial applications.

FlexCrete PMV panels are lightweight, easy to handle and install. They can be drilled, cut, and installed with common building tools. FlexCrete is non-combustible, with superior heat insulation. The panels are resistant to mould, mildew and pests. FlexCrete is produced by Rockcote Resene, ph 0800 50 70 40 or visit www.rockcote.co.nz/flexcrete.

slimline showering >

Methven Tahi is as gorgeously indulgent as it is genuinely eco-aware. It features an adjustable Satinjet handset, a luxurious Satinjet drencher (both with technology that saves water), generous shelving and a first-of-its-kind footrest for slip-free leg shaving. All the elements are connected by a central rail which enables the handset and shelves to be set at any height. In keeping with Tahi's slimline aesthetic is the Tahi thermostatic mixer – just dial your desired temperature then lift the levers to activate the handset, the drencher or both simultaneously. Tahi is available in four modular options at leading plumbing merchants nationwide.

Resene Emperor

Resene Barbecue

v sizzling with designer style

Electrolux has introduced a new range of stylish barbecues that show less testosterone and more sophistication. The new slim-line Electrolux Integrated Barbecue slots into any benchtop for design flexibility. High-quality marine grade stainless steel, high-performance cooking surfaces and features such as electronic ignition and a superior oil management system take Electrolux's expertise in cooking outdoors. The Electrolux designer barbecue collection also includes the sculptural Utzon free-standing barbecue and the mobile Electrolux Fuego barbecues. For further details and stockists visit the Electrolux website at www.electrolux.co.nz.

< seeing red

A limitlessly stackable chair in either transparent or coloured polycarbonate, the Venus chair by Origlia is moulded from one single piece, making it ultra-strong. With a U.V. inhibitor, the Venus can also be used outdoors without fading or becoming brittle. Available in a range of transparent colours, including clear, orange and yellow, as well as in solid black, white and red, the chairs can also be ordered with a padded seat for extra comfort. Available from Ashton Grove, see www.ashtongrove.co.nz for locations in Christchurch, Wellington, Auckland and Melbourne.

^ solar love

Rinnai has launched the new Rinnai Solar Water Heating range, which adds a gas or electric boost when skies are grey and an environmentally friendly option that does not compromise your lifestyle or budget. Factors such as how much sun your house receives, the angle of your house, the frequency of frost, and water quality, can be identified to ensure solar energy is right for you from the range of four different Split System Solutions – from Economy, Standard, Intermediate, to Premium. All Rinnai Solar Hot Water Systems come with tanks, panels, boost, pumps and fittings kits, and are available in three sizes with a choice of standard or frost-protected panels. To suit specifiers with more experience, all components can be ordered individually. Visit www.rinnai.co.nz or call 0800 RINNAI (0800 746 624) for more information.

^ clean up

Recognising that exterior timber surfaces have special clean up requirements, Resene has developed new Resene Timber and Deck Wash. Based on popular Resene Paint Prep and Housewash, this product has been formulated especially for new and weathered timber and is recommended for use before all exterior timber painting and staining projects. See the Resene *Caring for your paint finish* brochure for information on cleaning surfaces – available from Resene ColorShops or the Resene website.

Resene
Wild Thing

< in the flow

Keramag's successful Flow bathroom series, designed by well-known Hamburg-based architect Hadi Teherani, has been extended. A design feature of the series is the way the objects appear to organically emerge from the wall, as seen here with the Flow 300 handbasin. For more information and availability phone Hydrotech on 09 527 2276.

^ colour forecast

Sink back into warm mid tones and cool ethereal hues for 2009 for a sense of wellbeing, fresh and forward thinking. The Range 2009 fashion fandeck from Resene draws on hues from the full spectrum complemented by a variety of whites and cool and warm greys. There is a definite warming trend as bronzed yellows, burnished oranges, earthy and tan browns, nature inspired greens, vivid reds and reddened purples meet slate blues and soft neutrals.

The Range 2009 from Resene is a collection of classic and contemporary colours and finishes designed for the year 2008, complete with complementary colour suggestions to help you create the right colour schemes for your decorating projects. Available exclusively from Resene ColorShops.

Resene Tandoori

outdoor comfort

Two award-winning designs for outdoor living are now available through Perfect Pieces. Yothaka's hand-crafted P7 Dee dining chair is made from polyethylene weave (recycled and recyclable), and comes as a traditional flared-arm dining or occasional chair with a seat cushion (featuring Dri-fast foam inner and Sunbrella fabric cover for extended use outside). Available in three colourways – mud, slate and white (pictured). For more information, contact Perfect Pieces, ph 09 303 3229, or visit www.perfectpieces.co.nz.

Resene Bluegrass

rugs as art >

Rugs may be meant for the floor, but this vibrant new design, 'Blossom' by Vixen, from Designer Rugs looks just as good as a wall-hanging or art work. The rug and other new styles and designs were introduced earlier this year at the opening of a new collaborative showroom by two Australian design companies – Designer Rugs and Corporate Culture – in Auckland. The Parnell outlet has a large range of exclusive stock rugs, or pieces can be custom designed. The Designer Rugs and Corporate Culture showroom is at 73 The Strand Parnell, Auckland, ph 09 300 6116.

solid walls made easy >

The new Modular Hollow Panel (MHP) System from A-mex Quality Building Products makes it simples to create solid exterior walls and outdoor living areas. With many advantages over traditional solid fencing techniques, the MHP system uses holes bored at column centres, to which panels are simply placed and connected with permanent column pre-forms. Once the desired design is propped in place, the hollow formwork is filled with fine aggregate concrete, transforming the creation into a solid, totally integrated structure ready for coating with Resene Resitex Standard or Medium. A-mex Quality Building Products offer site specific advice and quantity estimates to complete the project. For a free information pack, ph 03 313 7537 or email sales@a-mex.co.nz.

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Colour magic underfoot

Have you ever noticed how colour can transform a room?

So have we. And we asked ourselves, why restrict colour to walls and furnishings? What if you could create the same magic underfoot that we take for granted on other surfaces of our living spaces? And what if you could extend colour to every space - inside and out? What would make that possible? Welcome to the PeterFell System.

The PeterFell System is a way to colour and protect concrete. With over 60 colours, the PeterFell System offers the largest concrete colour range in the country. The range is divided into seven colour categories: neutral, sandstone, terracotta, brown, stone, charcoal, and aqua. Coupled with a wide range of textures and finishes, this adds up to a a virtually infinite palette for you to work with. These colour categories have also been matched with Resene colours to provide a total colour solution.

For more information on the PeterFell System please visit us at www.peterfell.co.nz. For colour samples and to view concrete floors please visit our Auckland showroom (81-83 Patiki Rd, Avondale, Auckland). With over 40 concrete floors in three unique showrooms, a courtyard, and exterior concrete display areas, we are sure you will come away inspired!

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PeterFell

SPECIALISTS IN COLOURED CONCRETE

dare to be different

Quirky ideas, clever solutions and the desire to try something new.

As the trend tide turns from minimalism and bland interiors to ones richer in colour and detail, more opportunities open up for creative souls to try something different. And then there are those who have always bucked the trends.

This issue we celebrate the results of daring to be different:

> the architect who turned exterior and interior back to front

> the Hawkes Bay couple who painted their ceiling lime green

> the Auckland inventor whose 'anti-development' project saw two houses made into one

> the itsy-bitsy ensuite, painted and patterned stools, a groovy wall treatment, daring colours and much more.

Turn the pages and be inspired!

Resene Limelight

words Vicki Holder
pictures Richard Brimmer and Kerry Fox

out of the box

This creative award-winning Hawkes Bay home is a dynamic blend of shapes, materials and colour.

Some people build homes that are basically a series of joined-up boxes. They're scared of doing anything different because they're more concerned about what people will think rather than how they actually want to live themselves. So, they opt for box-standard, then they dress the house up with furniture in an attempt to make it look more interesting.

So says, Greg O'Leary, who counts himself lucky to have broken the mould when he encountered architect Graham Lane. Graham designed a home Greg was building for some friends and having just returned from a stint of living in Europe and Auckland, Greg found the experience of working with Graham, whose designs are renowned for challenging the norm, totally exhilarating. He transformed the way Greg and his wife Kerry now think about design.

Quite simply, says Kerry, "he is our inspiration". Working with Graham, the O'Learys came to appreciate just how enjoyable the building process should be. "It's not meant to be a struggle," they proclaim.

From then on, they decided to embark on a campaign to educate others on the magic of great architecture. Their construction company O'Leary Homes became the vehicle to show people how surprisingly varied spaces, interesting materials, honest construction details and skilful use of colour can enrich living environments. >

Left The rear lounge area has a warm, moody atmosphere, great for watching movies.

Far left Dramatic shapes and materials play off against each other to create a house that is certainly not "box standard".

It's a sparsely furnished home, inspired by a passion for design and beautiful materials; "a home which makes you feel something"

Greg says: "Good architecture starts with something different. It's not just an add-on. It's built into the fabric of the design. You could take out all the furniture and you still have something great going on."

This project is the first of many the O'Leary's plan to build with Graham Lane as the architect. It's a sparsely furnished home, inspired by a passion for design and beautiful materials; "a home which makes you feel something," says Kerry.

When it was completed on the hill above Taradale near Napier last year, it won a New Zealand Institute of Architects Resene Colour Award. Judges praised it for its contrasting palette of bold colours which work together in 'surprising harmony' to provide a fun atmosphere, reflecting the vibrant personalities of both Graham Lane and the O'Learys. >

Far left The rich selection of materials and shapes results in a house of truly exciting spaces.

Above left Several gnarly old hardwood support poles 'grow' up through the house.

Above Resene O'Leary Green is used on the high exterior soffits and contrasts beautifully with timber trims painted in Resene Ebony.

Left Living areas wrap around the central stairwell, creating intimate spaces rather than those that are grand but impersonal.

Below The kitchen/dining area is possibly the most demur room of the house, and opens to a large deck.

Below left A smaller space currently used as a music room to the side of the main living area is painted a soothing Resene Windblown Green from the Karen Walker range.

The colours complement and add an element of surprise to the rich selection of materials: the concrete, timbers, steel and glass.

Did you know? Choose Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free for interior walls for better indoor air quality and a luxurious low sheen finish.

Kerry explains that the house is essentially neutral with glimpses of strong colour, "so you don't feel engulfed in it". The colours complement and add an element of surprise to the rich selection of materials: the concrete, timbers, steel and glass.

Standing at the black granite bench in the glossy, white kitchen, you look up through the void to the floor above which adds an uplifting dimension to the living space. To emphasise the drama of height, Kerry created a lime green paint (Resene O'Leary Green) to use here and on the high soffits outside. The matt finish hides any imperfections in the medium-density fibreboard (mdf) and the colour contrasts beautifully with timber trims painted in Resene Ebony.

While paint colour serves to highlight spatial effects, no effort has been made to disguise structural elements in the home. A steel support beam is exposed and left raw as it runs between concrete tilt slabs on either side of the house. Several gnarly old hardwood poles 'grow' up through the ground floor ceiling. Greg explains that it's this kind of honesty which gives the house life. The combination of old and new adds 'a feeling of homeliness'.

As your eye steals around the marvelous array of construction details on show, you understand the excitement the O'Leary's must feel every day.

Graham Lane is keen on providing a continuum between materials used on the inside and out. Cedar weatherboards, the same as those on the exterior, are mounted against the concrete tilt slabs inside for a rich, warm effect. Upstairs, in the central living space between bedrooms, mdf ceiling panels overlap like weatherboards, adding an interesting layered effect and again highlighted in Resene O'Leary Green.

The house was designed for maximum flexibility to suit changing lifestyles. Two downstairs living areas open into one another while a smaller space off to the side, painted a soothing Resene Windblown Green from the Karen Walker range, is used as a music room, but could easily morph into another bedroom.

>

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While the lounge area to the rear has a warm, moody atmosphere, great for watching movies, the front room is filled with light. Glazed on three sides it looks out over a private patio and the view. In summer, full height sliding glass doors disappear into wall cavities, so you feel as if you're sitting outside even when you're inside.

Upstairs, family bedrooms are arranged to make the most of views down through the valley. In Resene Crab Apple, a rich burnt orange-red, the master bedroom sits between two smaller rooms and is entered via a dressing room. The room is not overly large. Greg points out that Graham Lane is not big on grandeur and prefers to create more intimately scaled rooms. Having lived in a series of large homes designed for entertaining crowds, the O'Leary's have learnt the same lesson. "How often do you entertain crowds? Smaller spaces make you feel much cosier," says Kerry.

Timber louvres across the balcony in front and part way along the sides of the bedroom generate a pleasing plantation-style feel. By sliding back the windows and shutting the louvres which can be adjusted to let in fresh air, Kerry says she can create the perfect temperature for sleeping in summer.

You might think a concrete house would be cold but by being oriented towards the sun, this home takes advantage of passive solar energy. There are solar panels on the roof and insulation is packed between the tilt slabs and internal weatherboards. Concrete floors are heated by an electric heat pump and a freestanding fire box in the middle of the house feeds a wetback system as well as providing instant warmth as you walk inside. A flue reaching through the second floor spreads the heat around the upper level of the house.

Future-proofed for many generations, this is a vibrant home with a life of its own. As a backdrop to contemporary living, it will grow, evolve and improve with age. It's not meant to be perfect, say its owners, but that's all part of its charm. H

Coloured concrete floors are heated and act as a suntrap.

Resene Cargo

Internal ceiling: Resene O'Leary Green on medium-density fibreboard overlapped to add texture and interest.

Resene Archive Grey

Get the exterior look with Resene Cool Colour Lumbersider tinted to Resene Ebony.

Resene Coromandel

Rustic poles: hardwood

O'Leary Homes
www.olearyhomes.co.nz

Resene Limelight

Get the interior look with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Windblown Green.

Resene Half Sea Fog

Resene Crab Apple

on the following pages, find two alternative style solutions

celebrating the best

Award programmes have a special place in our design professions.

Antipodeans are known for their innovation – a fact no more aptly displayed than in Graham Lane's award-winning house designed for the O'Learys.

Innovation and excellence would mean little, however, if that frock, holiday home, or council playground wasn't displayed through awards programmes that let the rest of the country stand back and admire.

When the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) Resene Supreme Awards for Architecture 2008 were announced earlier this year, national judging convenor Pip Cheshire – of Auckland-based Cheshire Architects – noted: "We are seeing a great deal more sophistication in New Zealand design. While solutions are responsive to the demands of New Zealand, they display a true knowledge of world conditions of architecture."

And participation in a forum like this takes real courage, says John Gerondis, sales manager for Resene, which has sponsored these awards since 1990.

"In the NZIA Resene Awards for Architecture, we're asking architects to present their work to their peers and to be assessed by them, and that takes some grit," he says. "However, because of just that,

> "Good leads to good, and competition constantly prompts designers to strive to do better."

these are true industry awards. They are rigorous and demanding, but there's a feeling that the assessment system is a fair one, and that's been backed by tremendous growth in participation."

And, as he points out, the award results are seen as a validation of the quality of the winning designs. Without this kind of recognition our achievement of new design benchmarks may well go unnoticed by anyone except the client at the receiving end of the finished project.

That's a key reason why such initiatives are so valuable, says Renée Davies, president of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA), which has run biannual awards since the early 1980s, also sponsored by Resene.

"The moment a designer or their project wins something, that attracts the attention of the media," she says. "And that immediately raises the profile of the profession and the work it's doing. Press, TV and radio coverage is a great way to make the consumer aware of current trends and projects. And that leads to a greater consumer appreciation of the importance of good design."

The impact of such exposure can be wider reaching, too, she observes. Much architecture or landscape architecture is integral to major civic projects, and as these attract interest at government or local body level, they tend to trigger more works of that quality, which leads to a better environment for all.

"Good leads to good, and competition constantly prompts designers to strive to do better," she says.

Whether it's the Architectural Designers NZ, or the National Kitchen and Bathroom Association, each sector of the design industry has its own programme that aims to reward outstanding creativity and professional expertise, and raise wider awareness of just what our designers are capable of. These events also challenge the designers themselves to consider what they're doing.

"This is also one reason why we feel it is important to reward not just completed projects, but also examples of great planning, and some of those undertakings that never actually get built. Many of these last are just too difficult or expensive to execute, but some of the ideas they embody are ground-breaking," says Renee.

Awards are an important barometer of the health of the industry as well. If entry numbers were to drop off year-by-year, or the quality of entries significantly decline, this should prompt alarm bells.

And last, but not least, says Renee, such important events attract the attention of industry professionals in other parts of the world, too.

"The media attention, the presence of overseas judges, or the elevation of our award-winning designs into international competitions, all stimulate the cross-border sharing of ideas... taking in new concepts and benchmarking our own against them is how we both validate our own achievements and move ahead." H

words Rachel Macdonald

Resene
Half Sea Fog

^ Rich Middle Eastern colours spice up the space.

Resene Chi

illustration Bruce Bryant

>

sheer curtains
Baumann Sandro 112
(lined with gold fabric)

James Dunlop Textiles
www.jamesdunlop.co.nz

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Brooklyn Chair

Montreux
www.montreux.co.nz

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oval Sun Mirror Gold Leaf

CC Interiors
www.ccinteriors.co.nz

Resene Barely There

Resene Gold Dust

Resene Spinnaker

Resene Raging Bull

Alicia sofa

Montreux
www.montreux.co.nz

covered in Jab Hierro 1-1106-242
Seneca
www.seneca.co.nz

sideboard

CC Interiors
www.ccinteriors.co.nz

Fiona Renton

of Sandalwood Design, Christchurch, suggests this alternative solution:

I wanted to achieve a feeling of intimacy for the room so took my inspiration from the Middle East to create a rich opulent colour palette – blends of deep reds, luxurious turquoise and mellow yellows. Resene Gold Dust adds a glitz of gold to the walls, setting off the gorgeous mirror above the sideboard. A sofa with a mix of textured and patterned cushions makes you want to just sink in and relax. Velvet-covered chairs with gold studs keep a regal theme flowing. A Turkish-style floor rug pulls the colours together, while curtains with a horizontal stripe give the illusion of width and are lined for fullness. Accessorise with rich coloured bowls and candlestick holders.

phone 03 348 2558 **email** sandalwood.design@clear.net.nz

^ Moody colours create an urban edginess.

Resene Midwinter Mist

illustration Bruce Bryant

glass Pezzaro tables (two side by side)

Freedom Furniture
www.freedomfurniture.co.nz
0800 373 336

>

ottoman
in Aloha fabric

Unique Fabrics
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>

Vari chairs

Freedom Furniture
www.freedomfurniture.co.nz
0800 373 336

Resene
Quarter Silver Sand

Resene Cross Country

Resene Sargent Pepper

Resene Zulu

Eastside fireplace

Living Flame
www.livingflame.co.nz

>

Classic Collection sofa
in Argent Velvet, colour Moss

Corso de Fiori
www.corsointeriors.co.nz

Meryl Southey

senior colour consultant
for Resene northern region
suggests this alternative scheme:

I have given this room an urban glam feel with silvery metallics and broody grey walls in Resene Zulu. The room gains a focal point by adding a sleek gas fireplace in the middle of the wall, with a flat-screen television on the wall above it. A textured wallpaper here adds interest. The long, narrow feel of the room is balanced by centrally placing two glass coffee tables side by side. An unexpected splash of colour comes with a fun floral fabric ottoman. Tucked under one of the tables, it can be pulled out and used as a foot rest or extra seating. The whole scheme is anchored by a lightly striped black carpet.

mobile 0274 776 156 **email** meryl.southey@resene.co.nz

Resene Alabaster

Resene Zomp

Resene Blackjack

go on!

Bored with beige? Try something a little more adventurous in your home. Three interior designers lead the way.

Mid-century inspiraton

Alasdair Hood of Jasmax is a fan of mid-century design, particularly the furniture of the period made from rich grainy timbers such as Teak and Walnut. It was a natural extension, therefore, to choose a graphic colour scheme reminiscent of that time, as well as a limited edition hand-painted Alexander Girard doll (originally designed for himself in the 1960s), relaunched by Vitra in 2006 and available from Cite.

"The black, white and pale teal scheme is a nod to mid-century design but also holds its ground today. Resene Zomp sort of reminds me of the Air New Zealand livery of the 1970s and it's the type of colour that looks great against rich reddish timbers like Teak and Walnut.

"I don't like painted feature walls and feel that if you are going to do something, then do it properly." Which is why he would paint all the walls of a room in Resene Zomp, with architraves and trims in high-gloss Resene Blackjack. Any recesses or alcoves, and the ceiling, would be painted in Resene Alabaster to give the space quite a sculptural effect. He would finish the look with timber or even better, cork floors. "You would need to have quite a large space for this scheme to work," he says.

It's also not a scheme that would work in a villa, he feels, but would be perfect for a mid-century or ex-state house, for example, or a more contemporary space.

Subtly acidic

Rachael Buxton of Interiors etc used this eye-catching Mademoiselle chair by Kartell from DeDeCe to inspire her colour scheme. Taking her cue from the sludgy greens and blues of the upholstery fabric, she chose Resene Secrets as her main neutral, accented by Resene Inside Back and Resene Fahrenheit.

Says Rachael: "The subtle acidity of Resene Secrets and Resene Inside Back plays off against the energy of the chair. All three colours form a 'family' with blue-green as their base, and the two darker colours have similar tonal value. They balance each other out.

"Resene Secrets is a wonderful neutral. It's relaxing but not cold, with hints of grey, yellow and green."

Rachael recommends using Resene Secrets as the wall colour in a room, then Resene Inside Back as the secondary colour, perhaps using this sort of colour in the curtains. Then using Resene Fahrenheit as the accent colour. She believes these colours would work well in both contemporary and traditional styles of houses, and would be beautifully complemented by timber floors.

Rachel has worked in Pukekohe and Karaka, south of Auckland, for a number of years and recently opened a new retail space and studio in the old Karaka church on Karaka Rd.

Resene Fahrenheit

Resene Inside Back

Resene Secrets

Natural update

As a designer who specialises in bathrooms and kitchens, Debbie Abercrombie couldn't help but choose a tile on which to base her colour scheme – a Multi-Stick from European Ceramic & Stone. "When it comes to the hard surfaces of a bathroom, for example, there is less variety, less choice, so it's best to start with tiles or flooring you love and build a paint scheme from there," she says.

These are also the rooms of the house on which you spend the most money so while it's always tempting to play it safe with all pale colours, Debbie sees this scheme as a progression from absolute safety. "With the deeper, richer browns and unusual tile [thin strips of mosaic], it's a little different but still elegant and timeless." She has Resene Quarter Silver Sand as the main colour, accented with a metallic paint (Resene Bandit) for "a bit of fun". If the metallic is too adventurous you could always substitute Resene Nest Egg, she says.

"It's an earthy scheme with white to freshen it up, very much at home in our land of nature and sea. It reminds me of pumice and sand, and could easily be used in the rest of the house with shades of blue and green."

To complement the scheme in a bathroom or kitchen, Debbie would choose pale timber cabinetry. H

Resene Quarter Silver Sand

Resene Stowaway

Resene Bandit

Resene Nest Egg

words Sharon Newey **pictures** Mark Heaslip

There is optimism in the future of the planet, with fresh hues combined with the desire to pull some of the past into the present day

Resene Tandoori

nature leads the way

As we yearn for more natural surroundings in this hi-tech world, rich warm colours and cleaner hues are emerging. Resene's recently launched The Range 2009 helps celebrate the trend.

As we come to the end of our love affair with minimalist interiors, decorated spaces underpinned with rich warm colours will be emerging as the new trend for coming seasons.

Colour trends are so often driven by lifestyle trends, one of which is our desire for more natural surroundings and an increasing awareness of eco-friendly alternatives. As interior designer Debbie Abercrombie comments: "We're heading towards natural colours with our increasing awareness of eco issues. Schemes based on a natural colour palette are also those that stand the test of time."

Resene's recently launched The Range 2009 draws on hues from the full spectrum, complemented by a variety of whites and cool and warm grays. There is a definite warming trend as bronzed yellows, >

burnished oranges, earthy and tan browns, nature-inspired greens, vivid reds and reddened purples meet slate blues and soft neutrals.

Hues in The Range 2009 seem familiar and comfortable, with fewer daring bolds compared to earlier in the decade.

The excitement of the internet revolutionised the last decade and brought with it a bevy of hi-tech advances. As we have become increasingly surrounded by gadgets there has been a partial rebellion, a desire to reach back to artisan and natural designs to make modern day life more emotional and less hi-tech and untouchable.

This yearning back to the 'simpler' life, has also been seen in the move towards organic foods and handmade products. Electronic gadgets once seen as a luxury, are now commonplace, so much so that handcrafted items are the new luxury. Handmade, thoughtful, one-of-a-kind home furnishings and accents balance our feelings in a world we cannot control. Consumers are looking for products that look old and handmade, not mass produced, for an emotional connection to their possessions. Urban sophistication has been reinvented with the melding of technology with nature.

It's no surprise then, that green continues to anchor the palette, ranging from healthy greens drawn from landscapes and agriculture to clean greens.

In The Range 2009 we see this environmental focus underpinning a variety of hues, as even the reds and purples tend towards vegetal colours.

That trend also continues into timber colours, with dark shades like wenge, being replaced by paler varieties like bamboo. "We have done dark timber cabinetry to death," says Debbie.

Neutral schemes will always have their place, says interior designer Rachael Buxton. "Some people will always feel more comfortable using mostly neutrals but will bring colour in through accents, such as a colourful chair or ornaments or patterned cushion."

"There is a definite resurgence of the use of colour, moving away from bland interiors. Also, cleaner, clearer colours are coming through rather than the sludgy, greyed tones we've been using," says Rachael.

"With an understated chic and an environmental underpinning, the hues of The Range 2009 are brought together in a warm palette of wellbeing."

While colours may be becoming clearer, the prevalence of mid tones means that we are using colour in gentle harmony rather than as a dramatic contrast. Again, this points to our need for comfort and relaxation in a jarring, busy world. Varying sheen levels and textures provide visual interest rather than strong chromatic contrasts.

New Zealanders and Australians are well-known for their desire to change homes regularly but in these days of economic uncertainty and flattening real estate markets, many of us are deciding to stay put and change what we already have. Paint is an affordable way to quickly change the look of an interior, and colour can instantly change the character of a room.

Colour's power to lift the human psyche is well recognised and a key driver along with growing consumer demand for choice towards greater colour use in all areas.

"With an understated chic and an environmental underpinning, the hues of The Range 2009 are brought together in a warm palette of wellbeing."

Even the kitchen is becoming more colourful, after years of white cabinetry. Appliances are no longer necessarily stainless steel or white, as leading manufacturers tempt our palates with wider colour choices.

The kitchen continues to morph from a place of cooking to a family haven, where families come together to assemble, socialise and eat. H

Greens

Green continues to anchor the palette with the interest in environmental sustainability continuing. Healthy greens drawn from landscapes and agriculture, expressed most commonly as yellow greens such as Resene Karma and Resene Secret Garden and clean greens such as Resene Lucky Break, dominate.

Resene Lucky Break

Resene Secret Garden

Resene Karma

Neutrals

Neutrals are grey-inspired, underpinned by seemingly timeless neutrals that have remained popular through many decades. A throng of previously seen browns have made way to deeper greys and darkest blacks, such as Resene Blackout, with complex undertones to add a touch of more than just black. Near whites have an influence over the palette, providing a fresh contemporary backdrop upon which the drama in other colours can be seen.

Resene Blackout

Reds

Red is strong and seductive, such as Resene X Factor and Resene Vibe. The bold clean hues of previous years carry forward, combined with a nod to nature with tomato reds joined by a quick taste of warm extroverted pink. Oranges are burnished and yellows bronzed complementing the prevalence of healthy greens.

Resene X Factor

Resene Vibe

Pastels

Pastels are only sparsely seen as chalky neutrals, such as Resene Barely There and Resene Whiteout, come to the fore. Greyed-off hues provide a secure base to complement the popular warm mid tones and move away from sandy neutrals.

Colour use is becoming increasingly seasonless and inter-generational with both ends of the age spectrum selecting the same palette of hues. Once pastels were the domain of the elderly – more and more these hues are being confined to baby rooms and are being transformed into complex neutrals and mid tones in other areas. As our colour palettes have become more sophisticated, pastels do little to satisfy our desire for colour depth.

Blues

Blues are watery and calm, such as Resene Chi and Resene Breathless, incorporating slate blues and grey blues through to deep ocean blues continuing from previous years. The slate blues are weathered and introspective, soothing the senses. Purples lean towards blue undertones. Dusty purples have made way to the influx of soft greys, such as Resene Chain Reaction.

Resene Chi

Resene Breathless

Resene Barely There

Resene Whiteout

YOTHAKA
outdoor collection

P7 Double Mould Armchair

P7 New Dee Dining Chair

P7 NEW TINY Dining Table

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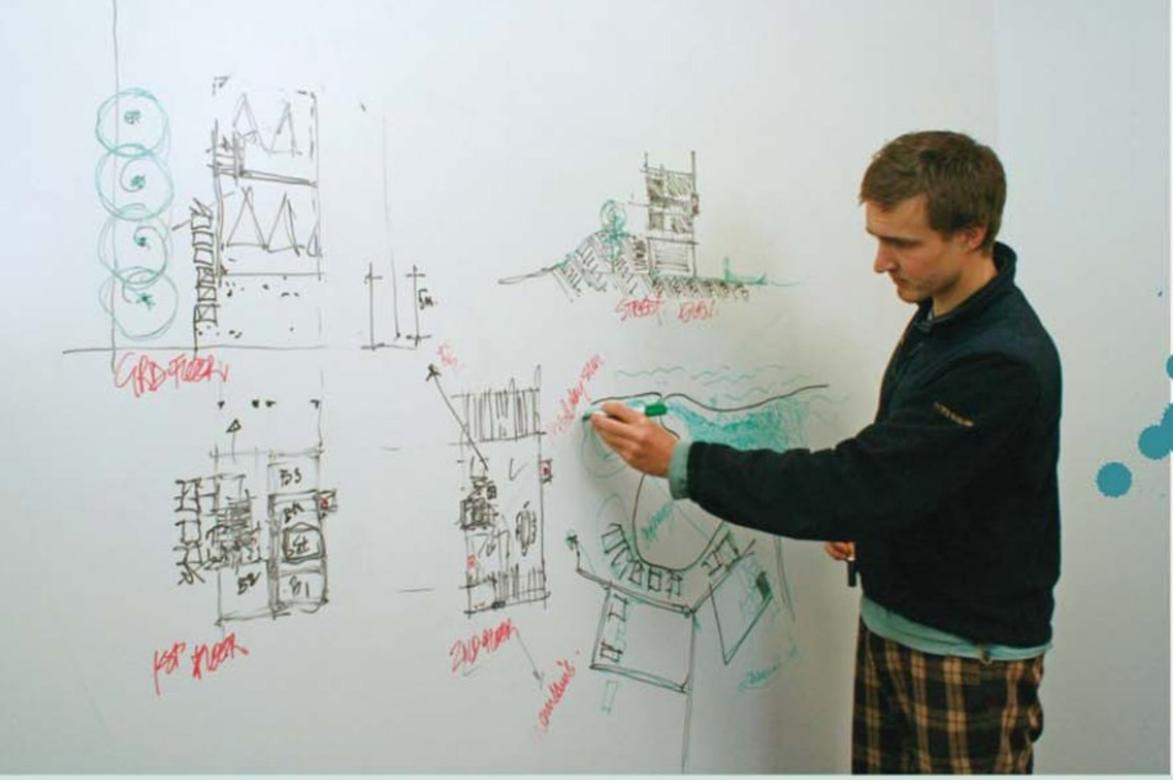


Resene Barely There

Resene Cut Glass

Resene Muse

Resene Trailblazer

when is paint not paint?

Just when you thought paint was just for… well, painting, we've come across some innovative uses for it and the vessels it comes in.

As children we're told it's bad behaviour to scribble on walls with pens. Just when we've learnt to control those creative flourishes, a product comes along to satisfy the passion of the wild child in us all. If you're at a presentation at JTB Architects in Nelson, don't be surprised when, instead of taking a small piece of paper to politely explain a point, someone will grab a pen and spontaneously start scrawling all over the meeting room walls.

If you're feeling inspired, it's much easier to explain things by drawing large plans on the walls, says Phil Sewell (pictured above). "You can lay them out really big and clearly."

When JTB Architects were redesigning the meeting room recently, Resene representative Phil Thompson suggested painting all four walls with Resene Aquapoxy in Resene Black White. The product effectively turns the walls into a large whiteboard surface, which can be drawn on with ordinary whiteboard marker pens. Marks can simply be removed with Resene Interior Paintwork Cleaner.

If you've got a creative use for Resene paints or packaging we'd love to hear from you. Email to update@resene.co.nz or post to Resene Paints Ltd, PO Box 38242, Wellington Mail Centre, NZ.

Crackle effect

A combination of Resene paints can be used effectively to create an interesting aged, crackle effect on timber. At the Old Church in a vineyard in Taradale, Hawkes Bay (right), posts which had once been varnished were stripped then finished in Resene Quick Dry waterborne primer undercoat. They were then painted in Resene Lumbersider tinted to Fossil, followed by Resene Crackle Effect. A final coat of Resene Enamacryl Metallic tinted to Resene Spark was applied.

The Resene Crackle Effect creates an aged appearance with thin cracks running haphazardly across the surface. The web of cracks let the Resene Fossil tone show through and the metallic coat adds a shimmering two-tone effect.

Well projected

Resene Hi-Glo Aluminium is an exterior paint. But used inside as a theatre screen it provides a backdrop that provides much sharper definition for images than a roll-down or similar screen. It's all because of the small metallic flakes in the paint, which reflect the projected light in a much crisper fashion. To ensure the surface is as smooth as possible, the paint should be applied by a professional spray painter.

Lizard traps

Who would have thought paint cans could be useful for bio-diversity? Empty Resene paint cans were donated to the Department of Conservation to help with their lizard preservation actitivities.

The department monitors lizards to identify their species, sizes, population and health. But to monitor a lizard, you have to catch it first! That's where the Resene paint cans come in handy. They are dug flush into the ground and sardines or pears put inside for bait with a layer of leaves over the top for cover. Sticks are placed across the top of the can, leaving a gap just big enough for a lizard, and finally the lid is put on top and held down with a rock to stop cats and rats getting in.

DOC workers monitor the cans every day for about five days. Recently, they monitored one of the last surviving mainland populations of moko skinks, on Coromandel Peninsula.

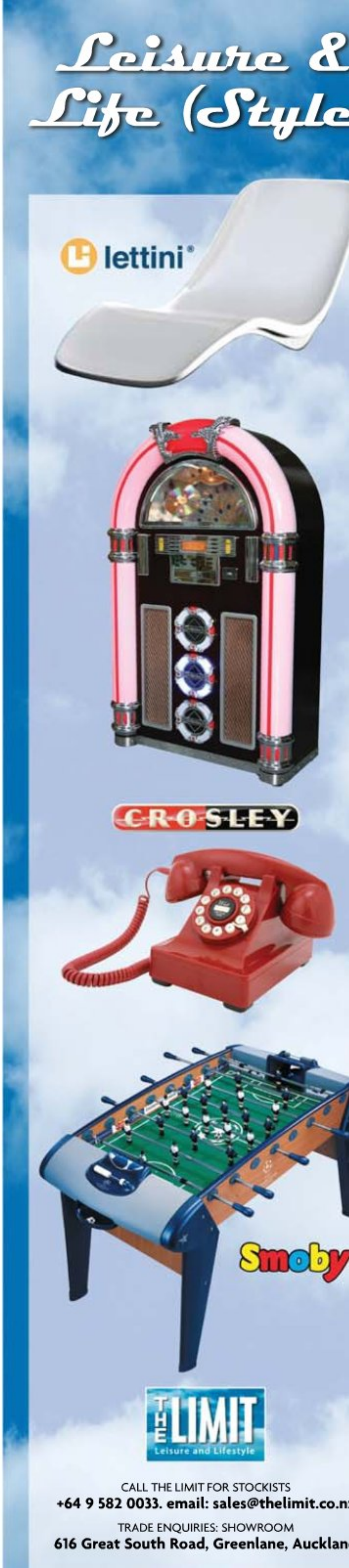
In the s…t

Just as humans are lured to the brightness of white paint, so gannets are drawn to the brilliant hue of… their own guano. The Mana Island gannet colony had lost its gloss lately. Gannet sculptures inhabiting the colony had been out in the weather and had become dull and shabby. And the guano that usually covers their home had been overtaken by grass, weeds and taupata, discouraging other self-respecting gannets flying by from stopping for a closer look.

It was time to redecorate and Resene was keen to help. Resene Sureseal pigmented sealer proved ideal for the weathered surfaces. This was followed by a coat of white Resene Lumbersider which emulates the guano. As the paintwork progresses, real life gannets have been sighted in the area, checking out the quality of the work. When the project is completed, it's hoped some birds may stop in for a closer inspection, and even decide to stay.

Bucket bokashi

Some schools have found new ways to recycle Resene paint buckets. Resene paint buckets and lids are ideal for bokashi – a method of intensive composting of organic material that uses fermentation to produce compost. It's best done in an airtight container out of the sun. Once aged, the bokashi treated waste can be used as fertiliser. While buckets of food scraps may suggest potent odours, bokashi is easy on the nose due to the effective micro-organisms added. It's easy to do and teaches children a process they can translate into their own homes. H



which one are you?

Are you a sassy socialite, a home body or a hard-working professional? Perhaps your carpet choice reflects your personality.

Drama queen

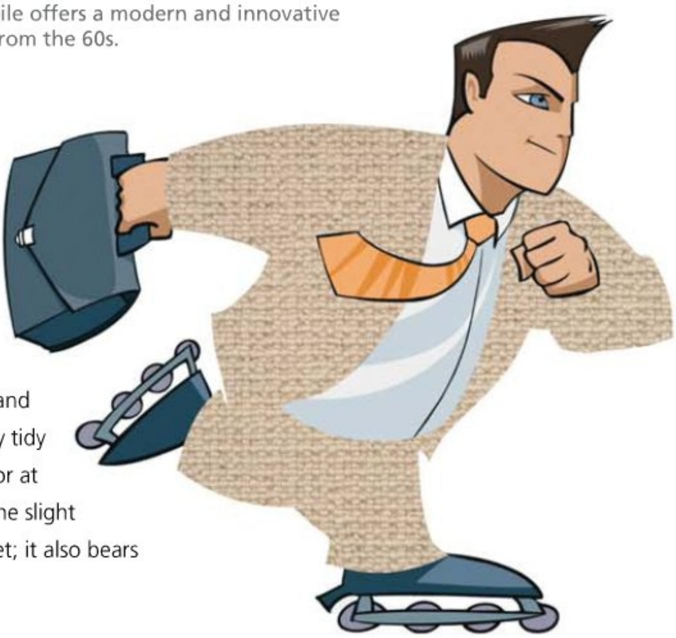
Shrinking violets need not apply! This woman loves drama in all aspect of her life. She dresses in cutting-edge fashion and is certainly not afraid to use brightly coloured patterns in her clothing or in her home décor. In fact, the large-scale Florence Broadhurst-type wallpaper she hung in the living area, and her retro sofa go just perfectly with the vibrant Charmeuse cut pile carpet in Roseberry. Considering herself quite intellectual and arty, Drama Queen dresses in Zambezi and Obi, and finds that her career as an interior designer or art gallery owner truly befits her lifestyle.

Charmeuse is a super soft cut pile with colours to dazzle.

Sophisticated urbanite

Typically an empty nester with no dogs and no kids, the Sophisticated Urbanite loves glamour and luxury. She attends cocktail parties on a regular basis, is well-practised at the art of air-kissing, and will furnish her home – perhaps an elegant apartment near the central city – with classic signature pieces of furniture and acres of gleaming metallic surfaces. Dressing in designer labels such as Trelise Cooper and Yvonne Benetti, she will choose the newly released Elysium for the soft sensuous feeling of the shag pile beneath her expensively pedicured feet.

The new Elysium shagpile offers a modern and innovative twist on a classic style from the 60s.



Corporate commander

This is the person holding our world together, a solid citizen used to wielding power in the boardroom or courtroom. Highly organised and with a penchant for the classically understated, they see the carpet as the fifth wall and want a neutral palette to balance the rest of their very tailored and impeccably tidy surroundings. Wearing suits bought at a boutique in their blue-chip suburb or at the upmarket department store in the city, the Corporate Commander loves the slight quirkiness and interest of the interlaced woven pattern of the Marocain carpet; it also bears the nostalgia of tweed and 'the old country'.

Marocain has a fabulous neutral palette to complement any decor.

Multi-tasking mum

As the lynch-pin to her madly busy household, the Multi-tasking Mum has an assortment of kids of varying ages as well as a menagerie of dogs, cats, budgies and perhaps a pet rabbit. She has school projects to supervise, birthday parties to organise and PTA meetings to attend. This household is one of organised chaos. The Multi-tasking Mum loves the fact that her Cobble Lane carpet looks smart at all times despite kids' muddy shoes and sloppy eating habits, and that no-one notices that it hasn't been vacuumed in quite some time. If she has time to shop for clothes for herself, she'll whip into Max or Kimberleys, knowing that she'll be sure to find something quickly and easily.

Cobble Lane is a textured loop pile with great 'soil hiding' properties.

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CAVALIER BREMWORTH carpets

Resene Matterhorn

A touch of softness in a hard-edged world

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> The ability to improve interior air quality. Wool carpets naturally absorb and filter volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – unwanted toxins and odours that can irritate humans.

> The ability to trap airborne particles which can affect asthmatics and those with respiratory problems.

> Superb insulation properties – the thicker the carpet, the better the level of insulation provided. Energy costs can be significantly reduced for both heating and cooling by up to 12% with a wool carpet when there are temperature differences between the indoor air and that under the floor.

> Reduced noise. Wool carpet virtually eliminates floor impact noise produced by footfalls, chairs scraped across the floor and objects dropped.

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> An unmatched sensory experience. Wool carpets are warm, comforting, soft and luxurious. They provide a sense of welcome and calm – a touch of softness in a hard-edged world.

"I might decide to use two or three different patterns on one panel instead of just one, or maybe whack in some upholstery nails to jazz a stool up."

Resene Passion

Resene Princess

Right Stool artist Marcia Scott on one of her creations.

sitting pretty

Artist Marcia Scott uses an unusual yet practical canvas for her colourful artworks.

After two decades of creating artworks for walls, Marcia Scott decided she wanted a new type of canvas. "I wanted something that would be simple and functional and have lots of space for decoration," says the Hamilton artist and mother of two young children.

She came up with the concept of a stool which, at 500mm tall, also works well as a little table. "I like to think of them as artworks for the floor."

The sturdy design was perfected with the help of a local draughtsman. All four side panels slot together, and two of them also slot into the top. Two strong narrow straps lock the whole assemblage into place.

The panels are laser-cut by a local joinery firm, and undercoated and sanded by Marcia, and then the fun begins!

What begins as an image in Marcia's head will be transferred to her work book, with notes and sketches specifying which

colours and patterns will adorn each panel. Almost every stool has a different pattern on each of its five panels; some versions are bursting with contrasting colours and patterns, while others are texturally busy but have the same colourway all over, so appear more sedate!

The panels of each stool are visually grounded thanks to a base coat of one solid colour; her characteristic rich patterns are created by painting through stencils she cuts from cardboard.

Detailed plan notwithstanding, the design will often change once she starts work and sees how it's coming together.

"I might decide to use two or three different patterns on one panel instead of just one, or maybe whack in some upholstery nails to jazz a stool up."

While many of her stools are one-offs, Marcia has also worked with some of her stockists to create a particular colourway and pattern exclusively for that store, and she repeats those as orders come in.

She says she loves all colours ("but I don't really do yellow!") and being able to work with testpots of Resene paint means that she can have dozens of options on hand at any one time.

"I especially love teals and taupes and chocolates. They're awesome colours because they're rich and interesting in themselves, but they still work beautifully with other colours."

It's not unusual for Marcia to go through 25 or more testpots in a couple of days, so she's a regular visitor to her local Resene ColorShop.

She happily admits that the colours she has at home are in no order whatsoever. This means the excitement of rediscovering long-forgotten colours, and the irritation of "spotting the name of the colour I need... only to find I had at some stage added a wee bit of something else to tweak the shade slightly!"

Life is busy, and finding time and space to work on the stools can be tricky. As well as a preschooler and a child at primary school, Marcia has a part-time job; and her 'studio' is a combination of the garage, the kitchen table and the outside table.

But her unique blend of flexibility and focus makes it all possible.

"I'm a real 'now' kind of person – if I suddenly get an idea, I just can't help myself, I just have to execute it ASAP. If it works it works, if it doesn't it doesn't!! Then I wait for the next wave of experimentation to wash over me."

Marcia's colourful stools are sold through retailers nationwide: Eon Design Centre, Auckland; King and Teppett, Hamilton; Staple Furniture, Gisborne; Madder & Rouge, Wellington; Redcurrent, Christchurch; In The Pink, Queenstown. H

Above While many of her stools are one-offs, Marcia works with some stockists to create a particular colourway and pattern exclusively for that store.

words Alice Leonard
pictures Mark Heaslip

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boxing clever

Want a feature wall with a difference? Take this designer's lead for a fun tile-look treatment.

Designer Marty Princep has always liked finding economic ways of doing something interesting with interiors. Before officially studying in design, he was the owner, designer and builder of the well-known Luminaire Vodka Bar in Beresford St, Auckland, where the interiors were all white – a look ahead of its time in those days.

That experience launched a passion for design which saw Marty study design and interiors for a couple of years in Wellington.

When he returned, he struck a deal with good friends Gerard and Anna O'Brien – in exchange for staying with them, he would do up their house.

This wall sits between the house's living area and the kitchen, and is actually made up of 88 separate 6mm-thick mdf 'tiles', hand-rolled in various Resene colours.

Marty, Gerard and Anna devised the colour scheme using Resene Brown Pod, Resene Dakota, Resene Half Blanc and Resene Quasar. The colours blend with the other walls, painted Resene Tea.

Marty did a dummy run of the scheme, painting small pieces of wallpaper and shuffling them around on an A4 scale model. He took digital photographs of the various schemes before editing down the choices to one pattern. "I didn't want the patterning to look forced, or to be too obvious," says Marty.

He then had a joiner cut the 'tiles' to exact size with a computer controlled saw. Of course, neither the wall or the hole in the wall to the kitchen are square, so some pieces were hand cut using a fine, sharp saw to fit.

The 'tiles' were then painted using a hand-roller, then stuck onto the wall using plastic tile spacers to position them.

Marty jokes that when his friends want to sell their house, they can always just paint over the wall in a plain colour if it's considered too adventurous for popular tastes. Or, if they get bored with browns, they could always use another colour scheme - variations of green, blue, or orange/reds, perhaps.

Watch this space. H

Rose & Heather is skilled at transforming bedroom spaces into sophisticated sanctuaries that reflect your mood and individual personality.

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Also available at: Dreamwool Beds, 105 Blenheim Road, Christchurch

words Sharon Newey pictures Emma Bass

two into one

In a project its owner describes as "lunacy, from a number of perspectives", two old homes have been expertly melded into one.

It's an ambitious renovation project that has kept the neighbourhood guessing for six years. David Melrose and Bronwen Allen took two adjacent houses on one of Auckland's busy main roads and made them into one.

David calls it his 'anti-property development', project. But despite his claims of lunacy, the result is a spectacular home and studio complex that has fulfilled his expectations, is perfect for the family's current lifestyle and which reflects the passion and vision with which it was conceived.

As an inventor, David is best known for the objects he creates, particularly in his specialty area of bottle design. He is responsible for the curvy fluidity of the award-winning Waiwera water bottle, the Anchor milk bottle and the Powerade sports drink bottle in North America, among many others, as well as the technology behind them. With a creative mind that just doesn't stop, it has always been more practical for him to work from home - or next to home, as was the case for many years. He and Bronwen lived in one of the Balmoral Rd houses with their two sons Harrison and Campbell while David ran his studio from the house next door.

After searching down long, leafy driveways for the perfect home and work property, David concluded that his business needed the main road presence it already had in Mt Eden. So he set about convincing Bronwen that joining the two houses together would be a good idea. >

Above A corner of the kitchen has Art Deco chairs against a Resene Wazzup wall.

Top The main lounge has built-in handcrafted cabinetry and a complex bungalow-style beamed ceiling. It's painted in Resene Lemon Grass.

Left The replica rhino head in the green room (Resene Mantis) was handmade for David by Tanya Marriott of Marmalade Monkey. "A rhino is a symbol of power but also something to be protected. It's a guy thing."

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In David's mind, the houses had to retain their 1910-20 character, but the end result had to look like it had always been one house. He didn't want to actually move the original houses however, so has ended up with eight split levels, most notable when you stand at the end of the stunning lap pool that runs between what was the original houses.

Says David: "Traditionally suburbs like this had all of their grander homes set out along the main roads. This house is part of that philosophy. Having a commercial aspect to it just made it easier to justify as a business needs to be visible."

He also has a future vision for the house as a boutique accommodation lodge, tailored to overseas business people and business groups. Hence its nickname of Hotel California, referring not only to its lodge potential, but also to its Californian bungalow origins. "We called the houses 'bungarillas' because they were a mix of bungalow and villa features."

Some of the rooms also have an almost rock star quality, helped by David's love affair with neon signs – "one of the things I do like about America is the neon signs everywhere, in every bar." This house has many - in the bar, the living room, the studio and there's a red Coca Cola version in one of the bathrooms. They're used like night-lights, shining out into the dark through the windows and copping surprised second looks from passing motorists.

The couple spent the first year of the project designing the house with architect and bungalow specialist Ron Dijkman. "He thought it was a stupid idea, which is exactly why I hired him," laughs David.

While the structure of the original houses and basic layouts have been retained, just about everything else is new, from the foundations to the rich timber paneling and complex beam and batten ceilings.

"No one builds bungalows anymore because they cost too much in terms of the time and skill involved," says David. He credits the result to a team of specialists, overseen by builder Geoff Davies – "he's exceptional".

Despite "clearly biting off more than I could chew", David's commitment to the project was obviously contagious as everyone who has worked on the project speaks of it with pride.

At more than 1160m2, the house is huge, yet there are no cavernous spaces. "A house this size does have to have one large space though, and for us that's the atrium over the lap pool." One side of the building is still very much a work space with various reception rooms and a studio, while the other side contains bedroom suites, a lounge/reading room, kitchen and dining areas, and other design preparation rooms as well as storage. There are numerous bathrooms, a sauna, media room (with windows that look below the water level of the pool), a board room, gymnasium, a professional dark room and a turret with a spiral staircase to the master suite.

The intimacy of the areas is helped by the colour selections. "We could have painted everything cream and it would have looked stunning, but I spend so much time here, I need spaces with different moods." >

Above The dining area can be closed off from the kitchen and living room by large cavity sliders. Most of the feature chandeliers and pendant lights are from ECC Lighting.

Below The spectacular lap pool runs through the centre of the house and is spanned by three industrial-style metal staircases.

Above The exterior of the house, complete with its new turret, is so cleverly designed, it doesn't look like two house simply joined together.

Top A tribute to David's work – a special light fitting made from Waiwera bottles.

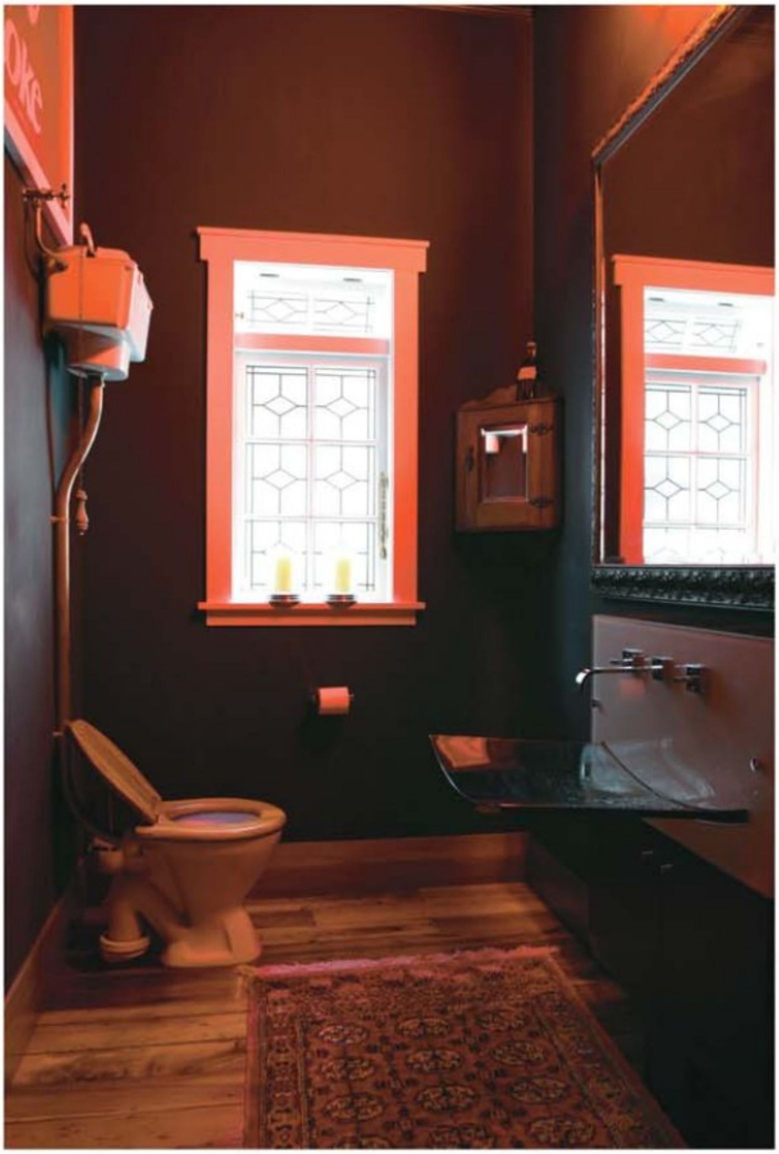
Middle David Melrose in the studio area of the house, with paint effect walls based on various Resene paints.

Right This moody bathroom with its striking Coca Cola neon sign is actually painted with Resene Blackboard Paint.

There are various shades of green, including fresh lime, acidic chartreuse and pale sage. The gallery hall is a deep plummy purple; the studio is turquoise; the kitchen cabinetry cobalt blue; the bedrooms more demur in traditional neutrals and the gymnasium is black.

Most of the colours have a story, like the green room (Resene Mantis) which was originally painted by a good friend who was dying of Aids. "Everyone needs a green room, a low-tech place where you can have a calm mind," says Dave.

Because the project took so long, decisions could be given time to develop. "You make better choices when you have more time," says Dave. He added the corner turret quite late in the planning, purely for aesthetic reasons. And when he and the architect were discussing drainage, they made an on-the-hoof decision to run a tunnel under the pool to connect the lower levels, which is now also a wine cellar.



"Once you have made a decision you have to stand back and be honest with yourself. If you don't love it immediately, chances are it's wrong. You tend to spend a period of time justifying the decision to yourself, but you've got to be brutal and change it."

Hence the reason the turquoise studio was rag-rolled four times ("the strawberry crush version looked terrible") and is now a paint-effect by Artifications using various Resene colours in combination. "I hate compromise."

That adherence to quality and the overall vision for the house kept the project going these past six years. It's still not quite finished, claims David. A mature phoenix palm was planted in June and there are still some curtains to decide on. "I like change, so there will always be some things I do again, like the paint colour in the TV room." But for now, with a thriving business to manage, David and Bronwen can relax in their very unique home. H

Get the gallery hall look with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Aubergine.

Resene Passion

Chandeliers: ECC Lighting

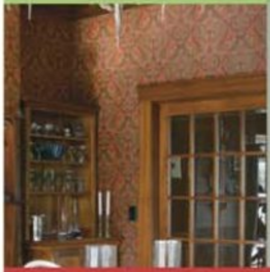
Resene Wazzup

Paint effect: Artifications

Resene Gargoyle

Rhino head: Marmalade Monkey

Resene Chameleon



Get the look with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Lemon Grass

Resene Lemon Grass

Resene Jalapeno

on the following pages, find two alternative style solutions

^ A restful scheme uses texture and accessories for interest.

Resene
Half Parchment

illustration Bruce Bryant

<<

Townhouse side tables, three-door sideboard and console table in standard finish

Willett's
www.willetts.co.nz

<

Whitford sofa by David Shaw

in Hero, colour Reef by James Dunlop
www.jamesdunlop.co.nz

>

Designer's Guild Cocktail chairs
Allium 09 524 4242

in Elliot Stripe by GP & J Baker colour teal/taupe

Mokum Textiles
09 300 7900

Louis Poulsen pendant light

Bromhead Design
www.bromheaddesign.com

Resene Cararra

Resene Bluegrass

Resene Dynamite

Resene Karma

>

ceramic bowls and bottles by Peter Collis

Eon Design
www.eon.co.nz

Natural light has been maximised by painting out the dark woodwork and covering the ceiling beams. The dark carpet has been removed and the rich tones of the original floorboards have been exposed and polished. The original fireplace has been replaced with a gas fire for efficient heat. The colour scheme is restful and neutral, with vibrant accent colours inspired by The Range 2009. A variety of textures, accessories and abstract artwork create visual interest and contrast. A modern classic pendant light and furniture with curved rather than angular lines looks contemporary but timeless. Seating is arranged around the fireplace for winter while french doors either side of the fireplace open for outdoor entertaining in summer.

^ A light scheme gives the room a more informal look.

Resene Rice Cake

illustration Bruce Bryant

>

Sofa in Grange fabric
colour Sand

Textilia
www.textilia.co.nz

>>

Lovara, colour 1525
Romanie collection by Harlequin

Malcolm Fabrics
0800 376 988

<

Verner Panton Fun pendant light
in Mother of Pearl

ECC Lighting
www.ecc.co.nz

<<

sofa cushions
Vogue, colour Pear

James Dunlop
www.jamesdunlop.co.nz

Milo coffee table

Apartmento
09 309 7646

Optical floor lamp by Palluco Italia

ECC Lighting
www.ecc.co.nz

Walls: Resene
Thorndon Cream

Resene Geneva

Resene Red Hot

Resene Push Play

Christine Hudson

of Architecture Lab, Wellington,
offers this alternative solution:

This is a wonderful room with its generous proportions and high-quality craftsmanship, however, the heavy wooden paneling can be a little dark and formal. For this scheme, I have tried to lighten the room a little and create a more informal, comfortable look, while still maintaining some continuity through to the adjoining room. By painting the ceiling and fire surround in a warm off-white, the period features of the room haven't been compromised, and the custom-designed built-in bookcase offers a practical storage solution.

email christine_hudson@xtra.co.nz

border crossing

Wallpapers that border on art - this latest collection of designs by six very different artists will give your walls wow factor.

Take six artists, add a dash of daring and what do you get? Thirteen designs of wallpaper from Vision that cross the border from wallcovering to art, and which will turn your walls into a personalised gallery.

And with such world-renowned talents as Karim Rashid, Werner Berges and Luigi Colani, you have a choice of art styles, from the luxuriously sensual to the quirky and retro. This is a cost-effective way to get large-scale art on your walls.

Some designs come with add-on metallic pieces, like teardrops, for you to place in a set pattern on a matching plain wallcovering, or for you to make up your own design.

Most of the designs in the Art Borders 2011 Collection are 75cm to a metre wide, and come in 5m or 10m long rolls.

Some of the Art Borders artists are:

Luigi Colani

This German designer is known as the 'Master of the Curve'. His wallcovering designs (right top and middle) are based on the premise that all life comes from water, from drops to flowing wave formations, with glimmering effects and iridescent colors.

For more than five decades Colani has been the unabashed agent provocateur of the design world. His working ideas are being rediscovered and reinterpreted world-wide, driven by a younger generation of designers who likewise believe that anatomy, technology and 3D shapes must form the basis if design is to be truly holistic and biomorphic.

Richard J. Anuszkiewicz

Richard, whose work has been exhibited at the Biennale in Venice and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, views his art as a continuous process. American born, with Polish ancestry, he is among the originators of Op Art, a style of painting concerned with visual sensation and the effect of optical illusion. His wallcoverings (right bottom) reproduce his original works.

Karim Rashid

Born in Egypt but now practicing in New York, this renowned artist and designer describes his own style as 'sensual minimalism' (left). His creations give a perceptible, cosy feeling while his designs deviate from all strict lines. "I want to change the world" is the self-confident motto of Karim Rashid, who is a leading figure in the fields of product, interior, fashion, furniture, lighting design and art.

Although the collection includes some one-colour co-ordinate papers, the majority of the designs are ones that will definitely make a statement. H

Art Borders 2011, from the Vision Luxury collection, and exclusive to Resene ColorShops in New Zealand only.

VISION LUXURY wallcoverings

Resene Genie

frame it!

Grab some Resene testpots, a selection of old and new frames, and get painting to create a co-ordinated look for your precious photographs and mementoes.

You'll need:

> Resene testpots of Resene Secrets, Resene Green Room, Resene Alfresco, Resene Push Play for the green frames. And Resene Quarter Tasman and Resene Alabaster for the grey/white frames.

> A selection of frames – we found two old wooden frames and a hessian-covered frame from the local second-hand shop, a $5 frame from the bargain bin at Flying Saucers and large and small wooden memory box frames ($7.99 and $9.59) from Spotlight.

> Small paint brushes.

Painting tips

Remove any glass and backing sheet from within the frame before you paint.

For heavily textured frames, it may help to use Resene Acrylic Undercoat as a first coat to achieve good coverage and to allow the true colour of the topcoat to show.

Below Memory box frames are a fabulous way to display collectables and found treasures as pieces of art. Colours, clockwise from top, Resene Green Room, Resene Alfresco, Resene Push Play. Background colour, Resene Secrets.

words Jo Gaught **styling** Lianne Whorwood **pictures** Dave Whorwood

Photo printing options

Once you have decorated your frames, it's time to decide how best to fill them. If that is with photographs, the world of photo printing is easier than ever before. You can use an online photo printing company, use booths at the local photo kiosk or hand over your camera's memory card to the staff, or you can be completely independent and print at home.

There's no doubt being able to print your own photos is terribly satisfying, which is why in recent years there has been a large array of photo capable printers come on to the market.

The newest breed is the dedicated photo printer. They tend to be small and compact, fairly cheap (from $90) but generally have limitations on paper sizes. Many will only print the standard 6 x 4-inch size and aren't able to handle text. A plus with these machines, however, is the ability to print directly from your camera or memory card, eliminating the need to use a computer.

Most of these printers offer a colour LCD screen for previewing photos before you print them, though with some the screen is only large enough to see a thumbnail of the photo.

Extra features to look out for are auto-fix, a function that will analyse your photo and automatically make adjustments, and inbuilt CD burners that allow you to archive your photos. Always make sure you see a sample output before you buy.

If you only want one printer in your life that fulfils more than just photo printing, invest in an ink jet printer that can handle text and graphics as well as colour photos. Unlike the dedicated photo printers you will have no issues over print size.

Look out for printers which offer a high resolution. This is measured in dots per inch (dpi) and is a good indication of print quality, though certainly shouldn't be the only consideration you use when buying. In a recent review of printers, www.consumer.org.nz rated an ink jet printer (Canon's iP4500) as the best overall printer, for its high-quality printing of photos and text, its simplicity and ease of use, its moderate price and cheapness to run. A colour photograph on the Canon costs only 24c to produce.

This is comparable to online printing companies who charge 20c-28c per photo. This is cheaper than most photo kiosks, where upwards of 50c can be the norm. To find the most cost-effective printer for your needs, log on to www.consumer.org.nz (printer review) where an online comparison function allows you to check out the running costs of different printers, based on your individual printing requirements.

While laser printers are cheap to run and certainly quicker at printing than ink jets, at present the quality for photos is poor.

Even the best printer won't deliver good results if you print on low-grade paper. Specialist photo paper is quick to dry and has a high water resistance, so no smudgy fingerprints. A high-gloss 180gsm photo paper is good for everyday snaps, while a premium satin 260gsm photo paper is going to give you superior results.

Replacing ink cartridges can be expensive. Most new ink jet printers print from at least four separate colour cartridges instead of the old tri-colour single cartridge, which means you're only replacing the colour that has run out instead of all three. H

Above A clever illusion is created here by painting an old frame the same colour (Resene Quarter Tasman) as the wall, and mounting it and the artwork or photograph separately so that the wall surface appears to become part of the frame. Painting any frames the same shade as the background creates a tranquil tone-on-tone grouping. Interest is created by choosing frames that are embossed, patterned or textured. This plainer approach also allows any images you choose to stand out rather than be overwhelmed with colour. The frames in the foreground are painted Resene Alabaster.

Resene Alabaster

Resene Beethoven

Resene Green Room

protection whether you are home or away

Your home and all that's in it is precious.
And it needs protecting when you can't be there.

A house is so much more than the sum of its parts. Objectively, it's just a building – walls and a roof, filled with things, that at its most basic level, is just stuff that helps you live a more comfortable life.

But we all know that it's much more than that. It is a haven filled with memories and objects that, for your own unique reasons, you value far beyond their intrinsic worth. That armchair isn't just another chair – it's the place where you read bedtime stories to your daughter. The hallway is where your son took his first steps. . . and the stairs are where he had his first real tumble. The ceramic bowl on the bookshelf is a reminder of your honeymoon in Spain and the photo albums – well, they're irreplaceable.

While you cannot replace the memories, nor the sentimental value of an item, you can ensure that you are able to replace an item should the need arise.

We also understand that your plans to renovate, decorate and revitalise your home to achieve the desired look don't stop here. For that reason, *Habitat* magazine has teamed up with AMI Insurance who, like us, understand that your things are precious to you, even if they mightn't be to anyone else.

We have developed some tips, hints and handy suggestions to help you keep the things you value safe.

Over the next few issues, we will cover a series of topics designed to inform, educate and advise you to help you protect your home and its contents.

Summer time security

With summer approaching, you may be heading to a bach, visiting friends or just planning to get away for some well-earned R&R.

That, of course, means leaving your home empty and potentially unprotected. And although the very concept of insurance is to help if something goes wrong – a burglary, or fire – there are measures you can take to ensure you don't lose your precious possessions or home in the first place:

Neighbours: Let a neighbour, or friend, know you're going away and leave a contact number where they can reach you in an emergency.

Mail: Arrange for someone to collect your mail and papers from the letterbox each day. You can also place a 'No Junk Mail' sticker on the letterbox and you can put your mail on hold until you return with the Hold service offered by both NZ and Australian Post for a small weekly fee. Remember to cancel your newspaper subscription.

Lawns: If you are away for a long time, ask someone to mow your lawn so that the garden does not look unkempt.

Phones: Turn the ring volume down on your phone so that people cannot hear if the phone goes unanswered.

Curtains: Drawn curtains and blinds can be a giveaway to burglars, especially in summer when you may not even draw them in the evening.

Alarms: It is a good idea to install an alarm system. AMI offers a discount on contents insurance for customers with a professionally installed hard-wire burglar alarm.

Security lighting: This is a good burglar deterrent. Consider installing external sensor lights, attached to your garage or house, and use a timer switch on an internal hall light.

ID valuables: Engrave or mark appliances and other valuables. Photos of valuables can also help if stolen. Keep a record of the serial numbers of your TV, stereo etc.

Hiding valuables: Hide your valuables in several different places and keep a record of them (remember to hide this, too). If you have any items of particular value in the house, such as important confidential documents, and there isn't a safe, then it is worth considering leaving these things with friends or family. >

Keys: Don't hide keys in places where onlookers can see you depositing or collecting them. Don't leave them in a convenient, and therefore predictable, hiding place.

Windows and doors: Before leaving on your travels, take extra care in checking that all doors and windows are locked securely, and if there is a burglar alarm that it is set.

Garages and sheds: If you have valuable items in the shed, such as bikes or tools, then it might be a good idea to store them in the house over the holiday period.

Water supply: Turning off your water will help prevent damage in the unlikely event of a pipe bursting or coming off the tap, e.g. washing machine pipes. It may surprise you to know that water can cause a considerable amount of damage, especially if left unattended.

Pets: Lock your pet door if you are not leaving your pet at home. If you are leaving your pet at home, desensitise your alarm to allow the animal to move around your home.

top tip

To keep your plants watered while on holiday, water the plant and invert a plastic bag over it. The condensation should keep the soil moist for a few days. Alternatively, place a jar of water above the plant and place one end of a piece of string in the water and bury the other end in the soil. The plant should receive enough water through the capillary action for a week.

Before you leave

Turn off switches: Make sure your main appliances are turned off at the switch. This will ensure there is no current still running through the appliance and prevent any short-circuit which can cause a fire. It will also save electricity.

Prolonged holiday: If you are going to be away for a long time you should let your insurance company know. If the absence period is longer than the period stated in your policy, then your house cover may automatically reduce to fire damage only. On AMI policies this time period is 60 days. Just notify your insurer to ensure you always have the correct cover.

House sitters: If you have someone staying in your house while you are away on holiday, your insurance policy would still be valid with AMI – but check with your insurer to be sure. If you are away from home for a long period and renting your house out, then you may need to change your policy to a Rental policy – contact your insurance company for more information.

Contents cover: It is important to note that not all insurance policies give you the same contents cover when you are away from home on holiday. Certain policies, while providing full replacement value when you are at home, only provide market value replacement for items when you are away from home on holiday. You can contact your insurance company to confirm your policy details to ensure you have the correct cover. Remember, however, when you are on holiday to keep your things safe and out of view from potential burglars. H

Win a copy of *Dish* magazine

When you take out a new House or Contents policy with AMI Insurance you will automatically receive an annual subscription to *Dish* magazine. AMI is the largest wholly New Zealand owned fire and general insurance company so you can sit back and relax and enjoy a good read, knowing your possessions are in safe hands.

For a competitive quote call AMI today on 0800 100 200 and mention this offer when you take out a new policy.

Terms and conditions: 1. AMI Insurance Limited (AMI) offers a 12 month subscription (6 issues) to *Dish* Magazine (one subscription only per customer) for each new House or Contents policy purchased during this promotion where the customer purchasing the policy mentions this offer to the AMI representative attending at the time of purchase of the policy (new policies purchased without reference to this offer do not qualify for the *Dish* Magazine subscription). 2. This offer does not apply to the renewal of an existing AMI policy. 3. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other AMI offer or promotion. 4. Standard AMI policy criteria, terms and conditions apply and subscription details will be posted to customers af ter confirmation of insurance cover (Please allow up to 15 working days after confirmation of insurance cover for delivery). 5. Offer ends 31 December 2008. 6. AMI staff and agents and their immediate families do not qualify for this offer. 7. AMI reserves the right to terminate this offer promotion without notice at any time. 8 AMI's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. 9. The *Dish* Magazine subscription is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. 10. Details of each customer who accepts this offer will be passed on to Jones Publishing for subscription purposes only. 11. The start date for the subscription is at AMI's discretion; confirmation will be sent in writing.

ami insurance

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Remember to include your name, email address, address and a daytime phone number.

Entries should be posted to:
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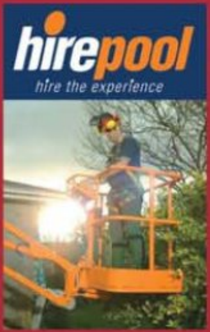
PO Box 91344
Auckland 1142

Hirepool



Whether your project around the house is big or small Hirepool has a solution to make the job easier. Talk to your local Hirepool branch – there are 56 nationwide. Hirepool, hire the experience. www.hirepool.co.nz.

We have twenty $50 Hirepool hire vouchers to give away. Answer the following question to be in to win: What discount do Resene ColorShop Cardholders receive from Hirepool? Write the answer and your contact details on the back of an envelope.

Resene

Splash some colour around your home and your community.

Win a prize for you and a prize for your favourite charity. Be in to win one of two prizes of a $100 Resene voucher for you, plus the lucky winners can nominate their favourite charity or community group who will also receive a $100 Resene voucher.

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Linens & More

Catherine Boutique towels 100% combed microcotton. Ultra absorbent and incredibly soft to touch. Five star luxury for the home.

Be in to win one of two Catherine Boutique towel sets in colour Baltic Blue. Each towel set includes two extra large bath towels, one guest towel and two face washers, valued at $139.95. To be in to win, simply write 'Linens & More' on the back of an envelope with your contact details.

Anna D by Forma

Simple, stylish and surprisingly comfortable, the Anna D is Forma's most versatile and functional occasional chair. The perfect size for apartment living. Also popular for bedrooms, living rooms and offices. Available in the fabric, leather or vinyl. We have one Anna D chair to give away; the winner can choose their own chair from existing stock in the Forma showroom 51-53 The Strand Parnell. Ph 368 7694 www.forma.co.nz. Retail $460 plus fabric. **To be in to win, simply write 'Forma chair' on the back of an envelope with your contact details.**

A Deeper Shade of Green

Win a copy of New Zealand's first comprehensive book on sustainable building, *A Deeper Shade of Green – Sustainable Urban Development, Building and Architecture in New Zealand*: edited by Johann Bernhardt. Valued at $69.95. See page 106 for more information on the book.

To be in to win one of five copies of this book. Write *A Deeper Shade of Green* on the back of an envelope with your contact details.

Conditions: Competition is open to NZ residents only. All employees, and their immediate families, of Resene Paints Limited, Jones Publishing and their advertising agencies, are ineligible to enter. Prize may not be exchanged or redeemed for cash. Competition closes 5pm, 30 January 2009.

he says, she says

When it comes to gender differences, it's not all pink and blue, as Karen Wardell found in her casual survey of colour perceptions.

She wants one colour, he wants another. We've all heard them discussing it in shops and on the street. That one word, 'colour'. Everybody reacts to it; that it should conjure up so many images and stir up our emotions remains one of life's mysteries.

Most of us are aware of the power of colour and that it affects our buying patterns, behaviour and well-being on a deep and psychological level. But why are we so adamant that what we think about a certain colour and its connotations is truthful? And why do men and women have very different opinions when it comes to choosing colours?

To test the theory, 30 Resene colours were selected and participants were asked to match them to 10 corresponding moods: Happy/sad, optimistic/pessimistic, love/hate, active/passive, anxious/calm. They also had a choice of nominating any other colours they desired.

The 30 colours were selected with care, using red, yellow, blue, green, aqua and purple. Warm and cool colours were chosen as well as light or dark shades and tints. Terracotta was the only earthy hue, although it was not popular and designated as a hateful colour by women. Men, of course, disagreed entirely.

As a result, many debates ensued with total strangers and friends, while others tried to 'help' their partner fill in the blanks correctly. There was some discussion about what colour 'sky blue' was, and why one person chose green for both 'love' and 'happy'.

Around 60 percent of participants were female, but results were certainly not divided anywhere near two-thirds in their favour. For instance, the sexes could not agree on the colour of red for love, and more men by comparison chose pink.

Traditionally yellow is the colour of happiness in Western society. More men chose this colour whereas the majority of women opted for a much warmer shade of yellow, some even choosing gold. A definite pattern emerged with warm colours more prevalent for positive moods.

Colours such as mauve and lavender were chosen as calming colours along with light blue and apple green – all of which have a component of blue. Off-white was only chosen (but, at least, agreed on) by both sexes as being a passive colour.

Overall, orange and yellow were happy and optimistic colours, but orange was also chosen as an anxious colour by both sexes. More men thought of orange as happy and apricot as optimistic.

Red was definitely voted the colour of activity, with green the second choice – even though they are opposite colours on the colour wheel.

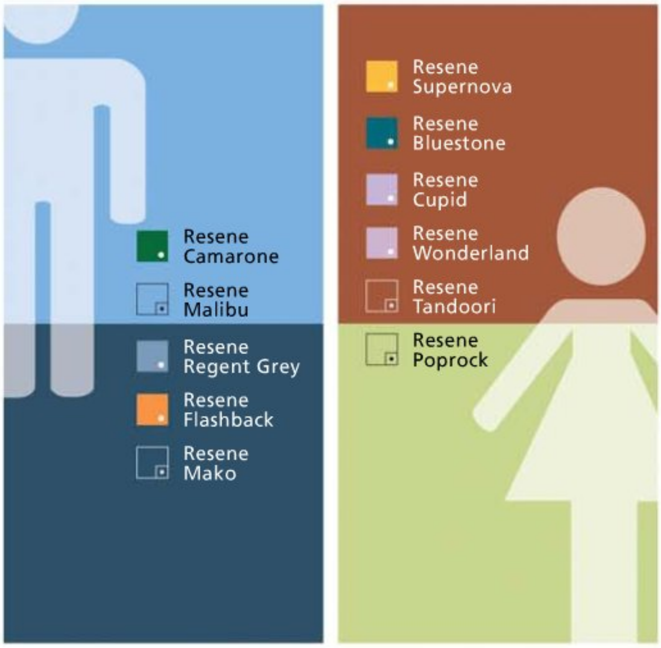
Most of the colour preferences fell into the category of analogous colours, i.e. colours that sit on the same side of the colour wheel, with the exception of the emotion 'anxious' which moved violently from one side to the other between blue and orange.

Interestingly, nobody chose the colour of learning (pale yellow) as a positive colour, nor did any of the visual arts students choose purple (which is an artistic colour) while grey was overwhelmingly classified as sad.

Says the survey author Karen Wardell: "Colour only takes on its true identity when placed next to another colour. It is forever changing, ephemereal and illusive – so simple, yet so complicated."

As to why can't men and women agree? That's just the way it is. H

Karen Wardell is studying for her Bachelor of Arts & Design in her degree year at NMIT in Nelson.



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stars in your eyes

Look around any appliance store and you'll see fridges, washing machines, driers, all emblazoned with star stickers. What do they mean and are all stars created equal over time?

If there's one message that's impossible to hide from right now, it's the rallying cry towards energy efficiency and sustainability. In fact, it's hard to get through the day without being reminded of it through some form of media or marketing.

For those who have still to remove the star-rating sticker off their new appliance, it's there every time a load of whites goes on or they reach for the butter. What do those stars mean, though, and who put them there?

The New Zealand appliance rating programme is the brainchild of the e3 – a joint venture between New Zealand's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and the Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts – which was set up specifically to promote a sustainable future by encouraging us to change the way we think about and use energy. Legislatively, EECA is underpinned by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000, which established the authority as a Crown entity.

Information on the label rating system can be found at the joint NZ-Australian website www.energyrating.gov.au.

At the centre of the EECA's mandate is the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. This is an action plan to promote sustainability as part of our national identity; improve the quality of life for families; and drive economic transformation in business. So, the key function of the EECA is: "to encourage, promote and support energy efficiency, energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources".

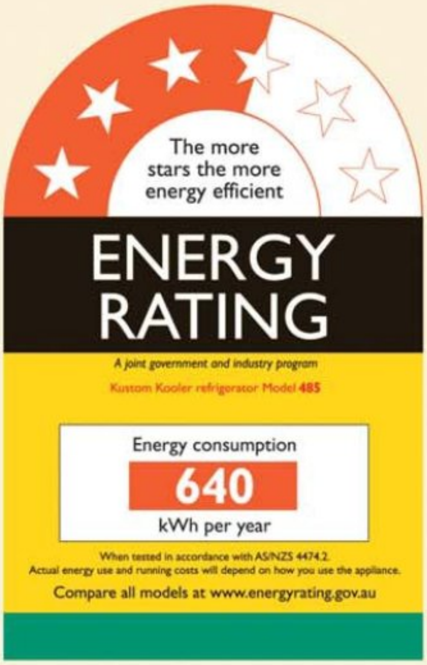
One of the ways to make that happen is through energy rating labels for products and appliances. The first step was to develop a tool that would allow people to assess how much energy was being consumed by their household appliances. It was also important that the performance of one brand and model could be compared against others with similar specifications. Hence the labels.

The labels are designed to help the consumer assess how much energy a particular product will use in a year of normal usage. Each star on the rating sticker stands for an increase in energy savings, with many high-scoring models featuring four or more stars.

Some appliances, however, may carry more than one band of stars. For instance heat pumps/air conditioners have red and blue star bands – the red band shows an assessment of their heating capabilities and the blue band shows their cooling performance.

In the yellow box below the bands of stars, a figure shows how many kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity the appliance will typically use in a year, so this is the figure that's useful when it comes to estimating annual running costs. To get to that estimate, you simply need to multiply the number in the box by your electricity tariff, as it's listed on your bill (e.g. 21c per kWh).

ENERGY STAR
THE GLOBAL MARK OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY



words Rachel Macdonald

To reach a lifetime running cost, multiply that annual total by 10 – most appliances have an effective estimated lifetime of about 10 years, says EECA. This figure is like a second price tag, letting you know your ongoing overall running costs on top of the purchase price.

So, your new washing machine is sitting in the laundry, proudly boasting its five stars; the same high rating as the fridge you bought eight years ago. You're signed and sealed with your energy efficiency, right? Wrong.

Advances in technology, and increasingly rigorous testing and stringent requirements, mean that the fridge so highly rated a few years ago would struggle to get any stars at all today and be allowed to market. And that's why the Government's pushing so hard to get households to remove the old beer fridge in the garage.

For annual running costs, simply multiply the number in the sticker's box by the electricity tariff stated on your bill.

So what's ahead for the programme? In addition to the already familiar labels, EECA has launched with Land Transport New Zealand a system of vehicle fuel economy labels. This means all new cars and all cars manufactured since 2000 and imported since 2005 for sale in New Zealand must display information about the vehicle's fuel economy, where that information is available.

The 2006 amendment to the Act to include stand-by power consumption in the ratings for some appliances is making a significant difference to how many stars they can carry as well.

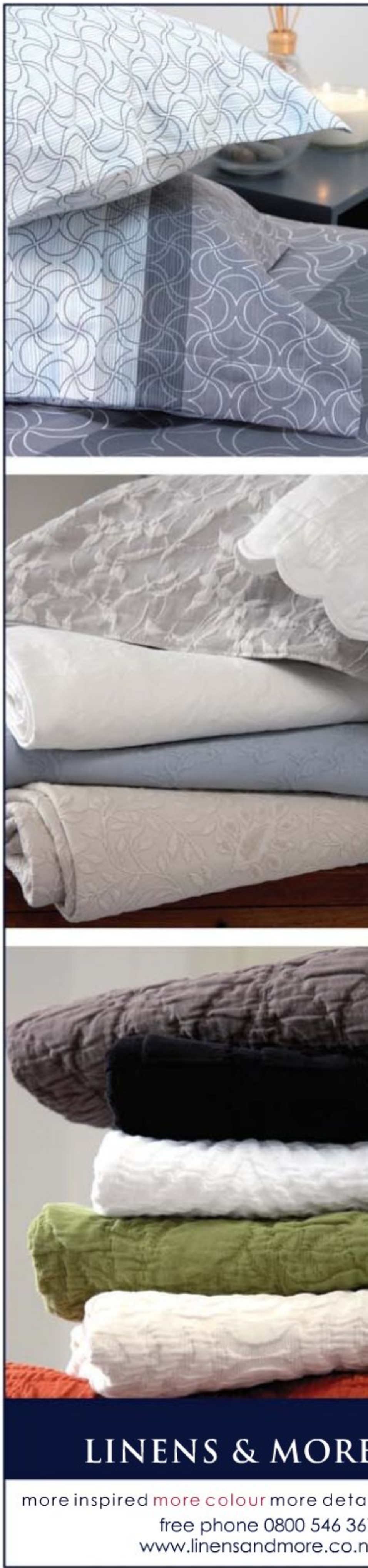
And let's not forget Energy Star®, the global mark of energy efficiency. Products with this mark must be tested and shown to be in the top 25 percent for energy consumption. Energy Star® lets consumers know at a glance which are the most energy-efficient products on the market in any given appliance category. And that's the idea, really!

For more information on how to be more energy efficient, visit the Energywise™ website – www.energywise.govt.nz. H

top tip

The energy rating stickers work extremely well if you're shopping for a new appliance but beware of using them to assess older appliances as advances in technology mean that the fridge so highly rated a few years ago would struggle to get any stars at all today.

Resene Bathurst
Resene Red Hot
Resene Spanish White



Right Large double-glazed windows on the northern side of the house welcome in the sun's warming rays.

locking in the eco look

Iconic design and build company Lockwood now has an exciting eco-friendly house series added to its portfolio.

Ask any New Zealander for a word that's synonymous with solid timber homes and chances are they'll say Lockwood. So it was a natural progression for the iconic building company to launch a new range of EcoSmart homes earlier this year to address increasing concerns about climate change, and the impact building and construction has on the environment.

The first prototype in the range, the Gullwing EcoSmart show house, is on display in Rotorua. It is designed by architect Dave Strachan, who has more than 30 years experience in the field, a portfolio of unique and contemporary homes and a commitment to sustainable architecture.

As predicted by Lockwood Group CEO Bryce Heard, the launch of the EcoSmart home was timely, with around 700 people visiting the home each week in the couple of months after it opened: "There has been an incredible response, showing that there has been a latent appetite for this sort of product. People love the light airy feel of it, the good indoor-outdoor flow to the north and the fact that they can shut off parts of the house to retain heat."

The three-bathroom, two-bathroom Gullwing has a roof reminiscent of a soaring seabird, with the wings designed for optimal placement of solar panels, for hot water and electricity generation. The outdoor rooms act as natural climate control zones that enable rooms to be opened or closed off according to the weather. The Gullwing also has extra thermal mass with concrete and tiles to capture the sun and release its warmth at night.

There are four other designs in the current EcoSmart range, including two versions of the four-bedroom Breezeway design, and three versions of the Little Wing – a perfect bach design which includes two bedrooms plus a bunk room.

Of course, placing the house correctly on the site to face north is key to the design, so any EcoSmart house sold is checked over by Dave Strachan for its suitability to the site. He has already devised a number of scenarios that allow for different entry points and driveways and because the design is modular, it can be manipulated to suit different orientations, he says.

"In a country where just 5-7% of the buildings are designed by architects, it's a chance for us to reach a wider segment of the population and show what good design can do."

The EcoSmart homes do cost more to buy but "you are paying up front for the energy savings gained in years to come," says Bryce.

"There has been a latent appetite for this sort of product"

Lockwood homes are already built using timber from fast-growing plantation trees which absorb more carbon than slower growing indigenous forests, says Bryce. "Harvesting plantations for solid wood, and replanting provides the best environmental outcome. Solid plantation timber is a sustainable renewable building material. People give a lot of thought to operational energy but not to capital energy. To produce wood takes a fraction of the energy footprint compared to smelted products like steel," says Bryce.

Not only does wood take less energy to produce, but also releases less CO_2 than other building materials, such as steel and concrete, during manufacture, according to Lockwood literature. Wood based homes can save around four tons of carbon dioxide, equal to the emissions of driving 22,000km, says the company.

Lockwood began in 1951 when Jo La Grouw Snr created the innovative Lockwood Building System, in which the building walls are locked together, not nailed. An engineered aluminium profile design slots into the machined corners of solid laminated pine, locking the wood into position. >

Above and below The outdoor room sits beside the kitchen and responds to how we like to live today, and can be closed off on cooler days.

Right The open-plan living area stretches along the sunny northern face of the house while service rooms are on the cooler southern side.

The EcoSmart show home is finished with waterborne Environmental Choice approved Resene paint, including the heat reflective Resene Cool Colours technology for the exterior. Low-energy appliances and lighting are used throughout the home while water collection is via water tanks.

"This first home is a prototype and we are committed to developing and refining the EcoSmart series. A number of the features from the EcoSmart series can be incorporated into traditional Lockwood Classic homes, and as with any of our designs, plans can be modified to suit individual needs."

Companies involved in supplying products for the EcoSmart series include Resene, Reid Technologies solar systems, Alpwood joinery, Nature's Flame wood pellet fires, Viridian Energy double glazing, Interface recyclable carpet tiles, PSP's Plexiglas sheets, Parbury Building Products quartz surfaces, The Cable Guy, Hills Home Hub and PBS Distributors XpressClad cavity system. H

Resene Aspiring

Resene Crescendo

Resene Middle Earth

top tip

Resene Cool Colours are designed to reflect much more of the sun's energy than a standard colour reducing heat buildup in the coating and substrate and minimising heat transference inside reducing the need for air conditioning.

Above The house's distinctive roofline gives it its 'gullwing' tag.

Features of the Lockwood EcoSmart home:

A high performance thermal envelope living area with natural cross ventilation. The house faces north to capture and store the sun's heat during the day, which is then released into the house at night. The south side of the house is designed to keep cold air out, hence the envelope effect.

Roof overhangs and slatted screens prevent summer overheating but allow low altitude winter sun to penetrate deep into the building.

The walls, under-floor and roof, are all heavily insulated and all window and door joinery is double glazed.

Renewable New Zealand radiata pine is used for all walls, floor and roof framing, and ceilings.

The weatherboards are a new patented Lockwood quarter-sawn laminated radiata pine product which gives stability, durability and a low environmental footprint.

Timber joinery is Tasmanian oak from sustainable plantation forests with a minimal outer skin of anodised aluminium for durability and stability.

A north-facing, 30-degree sloping, solar tower provides optimum positioning for solar water heating. A wetback Nature's Flame space heater uses recycled fuel pellets.

Similarly the north-facing 'beak' allows for solar photovoltaic cells for electricity generation.

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"What I have done is make the connection between colour and music very specific. Each colour represents a specific note."

Resene Urbane

Right Artist Michael Smither has always been fascinated by the relationship between music and art.

colour and sound unite

Well-known artist Michael Smither has literally captured the colour of sound in a recent exhibition.

In radiant Resene colours, big, bold, bullseyes pulse out from the canvas like sound waves. The longer you look, the meticulously painted concentric circles turn and vibrate with a compelling energy.

Michael Smither's startling latest artworks – *The Colour of 12 Sounds* – which exhibited at Artis Gallery in Parnell, Auckland, this year may seem a radical departure from what most of us know of the artist.

One of our leading realist painters, Smither is perhaps best known for his quirky representational approach to coastal and mountain landscapes, people and domestic objects. But during his long and prolific career, he has constantly returned to the theme of relationships between colour and sound.

That's not something unusual for artists, says Smither. "Thoughout history, there have been artists and musicians who have made these kind of connections. But they've done it from an emotional response. I'm not doing that. I'm saying there's logic to both the colour spectrum and the octave, and they're related. Therefore, the whole thing can become very specific."

It seemed obvious for Smither to pursue a way to notate colour and hue that could be specifically interpreted in a musical composition. In these paintings, he finally seems to have cracked the code.

His journey began back at Elam School of Art in the 1960s. Smither designed the set for Stravinsky's ballet, Rite of Spring, with abstract

shapes and colours that related to the music's dynamics and rhythms.

During the years, several more attempts were made to match compositions with shapes and colour. His most successful experiment though was with children. As part of a tour to promote his exhibition *The Wonder Years*, the opportunity arose to conduct three workshops.

These involved the interaction of four musicians and some children aged between four and 11. The children were given small squares of coloured paper and asked to make a pattern, gluing them onto sheets of card. Smither then marked the square of colour on each card with the equivalent musical note. The musician scanned and played these patterns of notes as they saw them and then as directed by the children. Having tried out the patterns on the musicians, many children chose to add to or alter their pattern to hear the difference. "The resultant sounds and random combinations of patterns as lines of children filed one by one up to each musician was spellbinding," says Smither.

The Colours of 12 Sounds pushed Smither's investigations further by describing the colour of a note in the octave and showing each colour's harmonics in a series of concentric circles.

Smither's son also concealed small devices that you could push at the bottom corner of the paintings. These emitted a short piece of music, composed by Smither, which had structurally the same set of musical notes for each painting. The more vibrant the colour, the more energetic the sounds.

Smither says his idea was very simple. "It's quasi-mathematical. You take the octave as a phenomenon that's made by taking a string and dividing it in half. From one end of the octave to another, you get a doubling of the frequency.

"Western music is divided into 12 notes. So you take the spectrum of colour, which shares a doubling of frequency from one end to the other. You take that and lay it on top of the octave of sound. Most people use their intuition to understand how colours relate. But as I was making colour that musicians wanted to play, it had to be very logical and specific."

Smither took the note A – the lowest frequency – and the colour red, which is the base of the lowest frequency of the colour spectrum. The rest is quite logical.

Reaction to the artworks has been very pleasing. "Six were even excited enough to buy the works," he jokes. Abby Sisam from Artis says many children enjoyed the show. "It had a visual language. Even if you can't understand the complexities of the music, you still respond at a visceral rather than a cerebral level."

All the colours used in the paintings are Resene waterborne decorative paints, paints Smither has used all his life. The fact that they are based on British Standard colours means that if the works ever need to be restored, then you can find exactly the right colours.

Using Resene paint offered a new connection which inadvertently inspired Smither's next exhibition. "In talking to Resene's chemist, I think he was quite puzzled by my idea. But he did alert me to an idea about an actual hue of colour. That got me thinking, this time I only got it half right. So next time, I am not going to have coloured backgrounds. They will be black or white. It will be the width of the lines that represent the position of the octave. I've added white which makes the line diminish. I realise what I was doing was trying to knock opinion with a sledgehammer. All I needed to do was keep the width of the colours related to the vibration length and note, and that would be sufficient to express the idea." H

Above Three works from Michael's recent exhibition *The Colour of 12 Sounds.*

Michael Smither used

- Resene Bright Red
- Resene Broom
- Resene Governor Bay
- Resene Grenadier
- Resene Japanese Laurel
- Resene Kingfisher Daisy
- Resene Lochmara
- Resene Observatory
- Resene Pizazz
- Resene Pompadour
- Resene Rio Grande
- Resene Yellow Sea

...a real estate agent

When it becomes tougher to sell your house, having a good real estate agent on board is a necessity.

A couple of years ago, you could sell a house without much trouble and within a couple of weeks. That's when the market was booming. Now, that market has gone flat, and buyers can suddenly take their time to make decisions. In this type of climate, sellers have to be far more competitive to make their home stand out from the crowd.

The solution? Get a great real estate person – one who accepts that the real estate market has changed and has adjusted their business and marketing strategy to deal with it. According to Ian Keightley of Salescoach training, this market requires a positive attitude and a whole new skill set that many agents haven't learned. He says around 60% of those currently selling real estate have never experienced a market like this before.

He advises sellers to be meticulous in their approach when employing an agent. "Be very careful. They've got to understand the principles of marketing – they have to know the product [your home], identify the targets and understand the best way to reach them. You have to package and price the product correctly and market it well. This is not a market for short cuts."

Where do you start? Scan through the local property media and see which agents are busy in your area. Take a note of names on local 'for sale' signs. Be careful, however, about selecting somebody on the strength of their visibility. Just because a salesperson has bought advertising space for their vendors or put up signs outside homes, doesn't actually mean they were able to sell those homes, says Megan Jaffe of Megan Jaffe, Ray White Real Estate, in Auckland's top-end suburb of Remuera.

Megan believes that word of mouth is best. "Look for a proven track record of people who have recently been through the experience of selling and ask for testimonials. They must be able to demonstrate results."

Barfoot & Thompson's training manager Teresa Reynolds says a good way to choose a salesperson if you don't already have a preferred agent is to do a shortlist of three then go to the open homes they are running. "This gives you the advantage of seeing them at work and comparing them to other agents in the area. It also allows you to see how the buyers that come through your property will be treated when the agent is selling your home."

She cautions against selecting an agent based on their price opinion of your home. "Ultimately it's the buyer who decides what they are prepared to pay for your home, not the agent. Don't get carried away with agents who promise discounts and commission cuts. Your most valuable tool in the sale of your home is an expert negotiator and marketer.

"Even though you employ one agent to sell your home, be aware that you are often reliant on the other salespeople in their company to promote your property. Choose an agent who has the backing of an established company."

Salespeople should be able to provide you with material that educates you on the market, providing statistics about comparable properties in your area, the sales process and how the real estate company operates.

A good agent will tell you how to present your home so it's not just looking its best, but it smells and feels good. Megan Jaffe says it's a competitive market, so you have to put your best foot forward. "Presentation makes a big difference. Create a homeliness people can relate to."

Harcourts chief executive Bryan Thomson says the appraisal process is a chance for you to see how well the salespeople communicate and to gauge their attitude and skill in response to your queries. You must trust your salesperson to achieve a great result, he says. "If you don't have that confidence, move on." He believes today's agents should be very comfortable with technology and recognise that relatively new marketing avenues, such as the internet, are critical because of the wide reach they give.

Once you have selected an agent to represent your home, they should devise a written marketing plan allocating promotional budgets you feel comfortable with. The plan should be reviewed weekly, says Bryan, and if it's not working, analyse what went wrong then change it. Throughout the sales process, expect honest feedback. "If the price is too high, you should be able to discuss that too. You should have a relationship where you can expect feedback, good or bad."

Rosie Harvey of Harveys, Taupo, says with their high-profile campaigns, auctions and tenders remove any barrier around the price and attract more potential buyers to the property. Once buyers come out of the woodwork, then the agent can garner feedback from them on what they believe the property is worth. The set sales date of auctions and tenders also gives buyers a timeframe in which to make decisions.

Megan Jaffe says it's important you choose an agent who continues to build their database. "In this market, the agents who are selling are extremely well-organised. They're perfecting their processes, systems, documentation and improving their vendor communications.

"Should things go wrong between you and your salesperson, go to the agency licensee, who will then follow up with the salesperson. Most problems relate to a lack of communication, or the salesperson hasn't done their job properly. At the end of each meeting with a vendor, I always ask, is there anything I could have done to serve you better?" H

words Vicki Holder **picture** iStock

key questions

Be prepared with a list of questions to ask salespeople who are competing to sell your home.

> What do you personally offer that will help me get the best price for my home?
> What is your point of difference?
> What is your company's market share in this area?
> Who do you think will buy my property?
> How do you propose to achieve a premium price for my property?
> What tools do you have to ensure every potential viewer looks at my property?
> Can your company give my property the exposure it deserves on the internet?
> How many websites can a potential buyer view my property on?
> Which systems will you use to market and sell my property?

"You have to package and price the product correctly and market it well. This is not a market for short cuts."

Resene Earlybird

Resene Poprock

"It's fun seeing visitors' jaws drop when they see the renovation for the first time."

Resene Anemone Green
Resene Sanguine Brown
Resene Quarter Parchment

words Sharon Stephenson **pictures** Nicola Edmonds

breaking the colour mould

No white kitchen for these homeowners. It's colour all the way.

Ask Sue and Bevan de Berry to describe themselves and they'll probably say conservative. Which is why the new kitchen/dining space of their Wellington villa comes as such a surprise.

"It's fun seeing visitors' jaws drop when they see the renovation for the first time," laughs Sue. "They're struck by this colourful and innovative space that's quite 'out of the box' for people like us, because we'd normally go for a plain, white kitchen."

Which is exactly what Sue and her dentist husband had in mind when they first started casting about for ideas. "We've owned the house for 34 years and although we did things like repiling, replumbing and landscaping the garden, for a long time we made do with a pokey kitchen that had very little light and horrible chipboard cupboards."

Located along the southern side of their Kelburn home, the kitchen was also draughty, had no outlook and was separated from the dining and living spaces by a clumsy arrangement of internal walls.

Yet it wasn't until the couple's two children had left home – one now lives in England, the other in Canada – that Sue finally decided it was time for a change.

Enter Wellington architect John Mills who says he "pushed the couple's creative boundaries further than they ever thought possible".

"They were the perfect clients in that they gave us a lot of creative licence and were willing to take on such a strong, bold look. It's contemporary, but still maintains the classic ambience of a 1914 villa," says John.

The 60m2 footprint of the downstairs area hasn't been increased, but reconfiguring the space has created a light-filled, open-plan area which looks out onto the garden.

The central focus is the 5m-long kitchen island, which is a favourite spot for guests to perch while Sue whips up one of her legendary meals. Designed by artist John Calvert, the benchtop is made

from Tasmanian Ash and inserted with aluminium strips.

"This ties it in with the stainless steel bench opposite which is used for food preparation," says Sue.

The zinc-fronted island is similarly industrial and was, initially, meant to be plain. "But the cabinet maker decided it looked too stark, so set his guys to it with an orbital sander, which gives the whole thing some texture."

The couple was so happy with their John Calvert benchtop, they recently bought one of his coffee tables for the open-plan living space.

At the far end of the kitchen, the old laundry was demolished to make way for a sun-room, painted in Resene Smalt Blue from the Karen Walker range, which is now a favoured breakfast spot. The laundry and pantry are now tucked discreetly away behind doors in the kitchen.

John has also borrowed space from an adjoining coat cupboard to create an alcove to store keys, mail and the telephone. Upper shelves were originally intended to hold Sue's large cookbook collection, but ended up being too high so various collectibles and object d'art now live here, while the cookbooks were relegated to the kitchen.

Across from the island is the Italian dining table and custom-made bar, which is well stocked for cocktail parties. It's overlooked by a large painting by Wellington artist Debra Britten, which serves as the perfect foil to a feature wall painted in Resene Sanguine Brown from the Karen Walker range.

Another beloved artwork on the adjoining wall looks as though it was specially bought to match the green, Resene Anemone Green, also from the Karen Walker Range. It was, however, acquired years ago and, in one of those serendipitous twists of interior fate, just happened to match. >

Below Some objects are displayed; some hidden away.

Above The central focus is the 5m-long island bench, with a top designed by artist John Calvert, made from Tasmanian Ash and inserted with aluminium strips.

Below right Red lino on the floors adds yet another colour element.

Opposite Feature walls in Resene Sanguine Brown and Resene Anemone Green, both from the Karen Walker range, are an integral part of the new kitchen area.

Did you know? Avoid fly spots on ceilings with Resene Fly Deterrent. Designed to discourage flies from landing on the painted surface, it reduces the appearance of unwanted fly spots.

The remaining walls and ceiling are painted Resene Quarter Parchment, while the pantry door is Resene Tana.

According to Sue, it's the surprisingly harmonious splashes of colour that are the real stars of this renovation.

Feature wall colours aside, there's the red lino in the kitchen ("which adds a lot of warmth," says John Mills), baby blue splash-back tiles and strategically placed mushroom and chocolate cupboard doors.

Wellington Interior designers Baker & Graham upped the colour ante further, adding raspberry-hued chairs, a beige couch and green window seat and cushions.

"It shouldn't have worked," says Sue. "But it does, and somehow the architect and the interior designers have managed to pull it all together. It has totally exceeded our wishes and we couldn't have had a better result…" H

Below An old laundry was demolished to make way for a sun-room, painted in Resene Smalt Blue from the Karen Walker range, which is now a favoured breakfast spot.

Oven: Fisher & Paykel oven

Cooktop: Westinghouse

Resene Caffeine

Rangehood: Robinhood

Fridge/freezer: Maytag

Get the look with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Tana.

Resene Tana

Dishwasher: Asko

Tapware: Grohe

Resene Sanguine Brown

Benchtop: Tasmanian Ash with aluminium inserts, by John Calvert

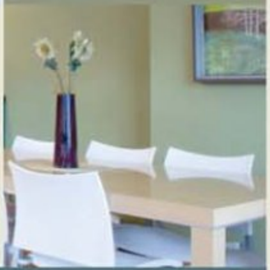
Resene Anemone Green

Dining room table: Matisse

Architect: John Mills

Interior Designer: Baker & Graham

Resene Quarter Parchment



Resene Smalt Blue

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"If you tried to put a single door between this ensuite bathroom and the bedroom, you would have tripped over yourself."

Resene Wombat

words Vicki Holder pictures Frances Oliver

space saver

Clever use of space means this ensuite looks stylish not squeezed.

Here's a conundrum – how do you squeeze a full bath, shower, toilet and basin plus storage into a long, skinny space just 1200mm deep, without the bathroom seeming pokey?

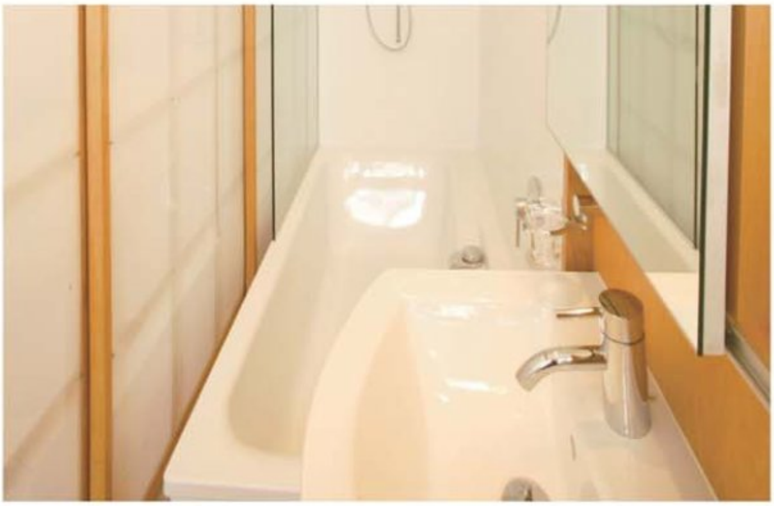
For Dave Strachan of SGA (Strachan Group Architects), the solution was obvious. "You use a removable wall. If you tried to put a single door between this ensuite bathroom and the bedroom, you would have tripped over yourself. But by adding a big, Japanese-style shoji screen you can slide the door right back out of the way, so you can get into the bath by walking straight through, directly from the bedroom."

Dave explains that the whole house, with its tiny workingman's cottage footprint of about 120m2 on a 300m2 section, was a bit of a logistical challenge.

The cottage had previously been burnt out and the owners Merv and Nancy Johnston, friends of Dave, wanted to include three bedrooms, good living spaces and two bathrooms when renovating. They also needed decent wardrobe spaces, which would take up additional space in each of the bedrooms.

The family bathroom was relatively easy as it was placed between two of the bedrooms with access from the hall. But the ensuite required a dedicated space beside the master bedroom. Here, the size and shape of the area drove the design ethic. Everything had to be carefully selected to fit into the tight spatial parameters. "With a small footprint, you have to look at how you use the space more efficiently," says Dave.

Although the toilet sits tucked in behind the solid wall at one end, the sliding screens can also be positioned to give greater privacy. >



As for the materials palette, Dave kept it simple, giving the space a clean, contemporary aesthetic with a Japanese edge. In keeping with the original turn-of-the-century house, polished Kauri floors are continued into the ensuite. They provide a seamless look, merging the bathroom and bedroom as one. When the door is open, the bath seems to sit luxuriously in a corner of the room.

To complement the Kauri, European beech was used in the shoji frames and in the storage pod recessed behind the wall-hung basin. "Not only is it a material that's compatible, stylistically, with the original but it's quite stable which was important to give strength to the gridded sliding door."

As there's not much depth to the room, a mirror slides both left and right across shelves above the basin, revealing the European Beech behind.

The square lines of the Kaldewai bath and the glass shower are framed in large format white tiles and all the other fittings – the Vitra basin and toilet pan – are white. The rest of the room is painted soft white in Resene White Linen, which matches the rest of the bedroom. A pair of Skope heated towel rails against a white tiled wall create an interesting sculptural effect.

"If you don't like the bath on show, you can screen it off when it isn't in use."

Homeowner Merv says: "Some people might think it's a bit strange having the bath in the bedroom, but for us it worked out really well. It was Nancy's idea to have the bath in the first place and it proved to be fantastic. Anyway, if you don't like the bath on show, you can screen it off when it isn't in use. Nobody would know it was there."

And a good ducting fan means steam is never an issue. H

Did you know? Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom combines anti-bacterial silver protection and MoulDefender mould inhibitor, perfect for minimising unwanted nasties in kitchens, bathrooms and laundries.

Architect: Dave Strachan

Shoji screens and storage pod: European Beech

Resene Napa

Heated towel rails: Skope

Resene Tonto

Bath: Kaldewai

Basin and toilet pan: Vitra

Resene Sisal

Get the look with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom tinted to Resene White Linen.

Resene Soul

Resene Triple White Pointer

Resene Buffalo

Tahi by Methven. The world's first luxury shower system that uses Methven's award-winning Satinjet® technology. Satinjet delivers a stunning 3,000 droplets of water per second to bring you an unmatched luxury shower experience in your own home - while using up to 50% less water and power!

Tahi also features an ingenious footrest that makes it simple to shave your legs in the shower. All in all, it's the future of showering and it's available now in leading plumbing stores.

www.methven.com METHVEN | TAHI SATINJET

words Vicki Holder pictures Mark Heaslip

laundry love affair

The forgotten room no longer, laundries can be not only serviceable but beautiful spaces.

Resene Alabaster

Resene Cararra

Above and left Having a good-sized laundry which was comfortable to spend time in was part of the owners' brief during their recent renovation. Hence, there's a television, a skylight, a pull-out ironing board, and heated floors. A clever device is the row of baskets, one for each member of the family, in which washed and folded clothes are placed ready to take to each bedroom. The room and cabinetry were painted in Resene Cararra, with Resene Alabaster trims, to further enhance its light and airy feeling.

In generations gone by we treated our laundries seriously, making them a large and practical separate room. Then we went through a phase of thinking they could be crammed into a cupboard but as anyone who can run a washing machine will tell you, that just doesn't, well, wash for families. It may, however, suit a professional single in an apartment.

Thankfully, laundries have regained their status, and many are being designed by professionals and sometimes in conjunction with a new kitchen or bathroom.

In planning a laundry, designers start with a list of questions which helps form the brief. You should do the same. First, think about the tasks that you want to use your laundry for, then consider the amount of space you have to play with, says Robyn Labb of Kitchens by Design in Auckland. You should also allocate a budget so your wish-list doesn't get out of hand.

"Is it simply a space to hide the washing machine and drier? Or are you going to use it as an ironing and folding station; for hobbies; as somewhere to arrange flowers in vases, as well as a place to air and drip dry clothing?"

Consider your family's needs, says Celia Visser of Celia Visser Design. "How many children do you have and how much washing do they create?"

>

Contents not included

You won't want any other laundry tub once you've seen Aquatica's new **LaundraMax**

With focus on design, Aquatica are pleased to announce the launch of the **LaundraMax**. The **LaundraMax** stands out from the rest thanks to its innovative design.

Instead of the usual cabinet door, this laundry tub has two pull out drawers with recessed handles. The bottom drawer extends fully to allow access to the two bins inside, both of which are ideal for holding household cleaning items. Furthermore, the **LaundraMax** has a cable controlled waste which means the tub can be emptied without hands having to be immersed in water.

Other important features of the **LaundraMax** are:

- Extra thick and robust long-life powder-coated galvanised steel cabinet (up to 30% thicker than other cabinets)
- Pressed seamless laundry tub with anti-drip lip
- Single lever mixer for easy mixing of water
- Metal tap handles (not plastic)
- Easily adjustable feet
- Removable strainer waste
- Overflow
- Flowing soap dispenser
- Recessed drawer handles
- Handy storage bins included
- Full extension quality drawer runners - to allow full access to storage buckets.

Pushed for Space?

Then take a look at the LaundraMaxSlim. This is a slimline version of the LaundraMax, and is designed for the smaller laundry area.

www.aquatica.co.nz

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People on rural properties often treat the laundry as a mud room, says Celia. The larger space is "the room they come into first from the garden. So there must be space for storing coats, hats and boots. They may want their keys placed on the wall. Often the dog sleeps and eats there so there must be room for the basket and bowls."

If you're planning a new home, position the laundry near the washing line outside in a hidden utility area. You may also have to include storage for things like your central vacuum system, with its bulky vacuum hose, a second fridge/freezer and somewhere for clothes to land from the laundry chute above, if there are bedrooms upstairs.

What you put into the laundry depends on its location in the home. If it's in the garage, you probably won't want it to include an ironing station. But if it's near the kitchen, it's a different story, says Celia. Is there adequate storage elsewhere in the house? It helps to write a detailed list of everything to go in there.

There are many great storage ideas to choose from. Pull-out baskets on shelves, bulk bins for soap powders or canvas bags for sorting laundry hanging from hooks are all good ideas.

"In a smaller space, keep cabinets open as tall cabinets tend to close the space in," says Robyn. "Some people prefer a cluttered, open look while others like everything neat behind closed doors. Doors that open out tend to get in the way when you're standing there folding, so sliding doors are a great option in small areas."

Some people prefer a freestanding ironing board that can hang up against the wall. Otherwise, there are boards that pull out on a rack from a drawer or fold down from the wall.

For many, the laundry is just a functional space, whereas others opt for a laundry that looks just as beautiful as their kitchen. Celia has found laundries are becoming a lot more elegant. "Once, people requested the cheapest materials possible. Now they're using Corian and granite as they're working in them all the time. They want them to be nice, not dingy and dark."

Do your research when choosing appliances to find out exactly which ones best suit your needs and budget. If space is tight, both Robyn and Celia recommend an under-bench front loading washer and drier to maximise bench space above. This leaves room for a hanging rack – handy for drying smalls and shirts – and cabinets above.

Which appliances?

One of the main decisions you'll make when planning your laundry is whether to choose a top or front loading washing machine. Top loaders are cheaper and they come in bigger sizes, says Sandra McGowan at Kouzina Appliances in Auckland, but front loaders give a better washing quality, plus energy efficiencies, using less water and detergent. "They rinse better, scooping and ladling the water so you don't get detergent smears."

She says some people prefer top loaders because the wash cycles tend to be shorter. Some front loaders take up to two hours to wash. However, if you set the wash temperature to 40 degrees or less, it normally takes around 40 to 45 minutes, about the same as a top loader.

The other advantage of using a front loader is the appliance sits under the bench giving more useable bench space and looking neater. If you don't like to bend down to take your clothes in and out of the wash you can raise the front loader onto a substantial plinth.

Most driers these days are condensers with sensors which detect the amount of moisture in clothing and dry it accordingly. Because they don't require ducting they can be placed >

Above and below Adjoining a second small bathroom in a brick villa, this laundry not only fulfils the task of clothes washing and drying but is also a spill-over storage space for the bathroom – as well as a sleeping spot for the owners' standard poodle. In return, the bathroom basin does double duty as a laundry tub. The cabinetry is painted Resene Mischka and the walls are Resene Seashell. The floorboards are painted in Resene Black, then polyurethaned for extra protection, and are complemented by a black Formica bench.

Resene Black

Resene Mischka

Resene Seashell

anywhere on internal laundry walls. But the big advantage, says Sandra, is you don't get condensation building up in the laundry. Most come with units plumbed directly into the drain. "Though they are quite expensive, they last longer and cost you less in the long run than ordinary vented driers. You can't wall-mount them as they are too heavy. But you can stack the appliances by putting a shelf between them, which is good for those people pushed for space."

With many hot water cylinders put into roof cavities these days, many appliance manufacturers also make drying cabinets. These are a good idea for people who do a lot of outdoor activities and need space to dry shoes, coats and other gear. They do require venting and need to be positioned close to an external wall. Specially designed heaters are also available to put into any cupboard for airing clothes and linen. H

Did you know? Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom combines anti-bacterial silver protection and MoulDefender mould inhibitor, perfect for minimising unwanted nasties in kitchens, bathrooms and laundries.

Planning précis

> What do you want to use it for – just washing and drying, or more?

> How much laundry do you and the family create?

> How big a space can you allocate?

> Where in the house is it; next to which rooms?

> What do you want to store and include in the laundry?

> Does it need to look good or just function well?

Think again...

We're all guilty of laundry stereotypes – it's just that cluttered room, cupboard or corner of the garage with a couple of white boxy appliances. Nothing too exciting, and one washing machine is much like the next, isn't it?

Well, no. Aside from the recent increased awareness of the eco-friendliness of front loading washing machines, which use less water and less detergent, there are many other innovations being seen in the laundry, as Electrolux marketing manager Rosalie Davison notes from the company's own observations and products:

Modern washing machines and dryers are very quiet, so why banish them to a corner of the garage or a back room? Our European cousins have always included laundry appliances in their kitchens so with kitchens becoming more open-plan there's a growing trend towards including the laundry in, well, our living areas, as shown in the photograph above. And why not? Then you can keep an eye on the kids, and fold and iron in front of the TV.

Some people don't like front loaders because of the stooping involved, but now you can get 'inclined access' washers where the front of the appliances is sloped backwards. Or you can buy a pedestal to raise the appliance up, and which also includes a handy drawer to store detergents etc, and can come with a collapsible laundry basket.

But if you're stuck on top loaders, there are now models available with great water efficiency – check out the various water and energy ratings at your appliance retailer.

Sick of ironing? There's a dryer that also becomes an ironing aid – you pop in the dry crumpled clothes and they come out with most wrinkles gone. The machine also has a refresh cycle for smoky or smelly clothes.

For your chance to win great Electrolux laundry appliances, see opposite.

win

One of these great laundry packages from Electrolux and Resene

First prize

The latest washing machine* and dryer from Electrolux, valued at up to $3949, plus one room-lot of Environmental Choice approved paint from Resene, valued at $250.

Second prize

The latest washing machine* from Electrolux, valued at up to $1649, plus one room-lot of Environmental Choice approved paint from Resene, valued at $250.

Third prize

The latest vented dryer from Electrolux, valued at $699, plus one room-lot of Environmental Choice approved paint from Resene, valued at $250.

All you have to do is get your creative juices flowing and describe what you would do to make your laundry look a whole lot better.

Does your laundry need a makeover? Simply write and tell us what's wrong with your current laundry and how you would like to change it. Include the Resene colour/s you would paint it (visit your Resene ColorShop or www.resene.co.nz/swatches/index.htm for the full colour range), the storage you might include, any helpful accessories you might use, the look you are after and where the appliances would fit in.

We will choose the three best schemes, and follow the progress of your laundry renovation. Then in our next issue we will feature photographs of your fabulous new laundry in the magazine.

Send to Habitat Laundry Makeover, PO Box 91344, Auckland Mail Centre. Closes **October 31, 2008.**

The scheme can take any form you like. Some ideas of things to include are a written description, photographs of your current laundry, paint chips and product brochure. Don't forget to include your full contact details.

* Choice of top or front loading machines available.

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Electrolux

Resene
the paint the professionals use

Terms and conditions: This competition is open to New Zealand residents except staff members of Resene, Electrolux and Jones Publishing. Winners agree to renovate their laundries using the products they have won and to have the laundries featured in an up-coming issue of *Habitat* magazine. The Judges decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. The prizes are not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. All submissions become the property of Resene.

Before Exposed and windy, no outdoor living areas, barren and characterless.

get a life

An exposed expanse of lawn on this lifestyle property cries out for some designer attention.

This lifestyle property near the city is a busy home to a family with children and pets. While there are French doors leading off the old villa onto the north-facing lawn, access is not easy. The rickety timber steps lead directly on to the lawn so dirt is easily tracked inside and the lawn can easily become muddy. There is also no overhead cover.

Although mature trees surround the house and garden, little else has been planted, and this area is very exposed to the wind.

The owners would desperately like a sheltered outdoor living area, with serviceable paving underfoot. The area needs more structure and access to and from the house needs to be improved.

We asked landscape designers Tania Barke and Sam Lockie to come up with a makeover scheme for the garden. While both enclosed the space – one with tall hedging and the other with a wall – the looks are quite different.

Turn the page for Tania's walled Mediterranean garden and for Sam's contemporary but classic solution, complete with swimming pool.

'Life outside' is the name for Stevenson's new showroom. Handily placed on the corner of Gillies Ave and Eden St in the busy shopping precinct of Newmarket, Auckland, the showroom has inspiring displays of Stevenson's range of products. From masonry blocks to paving, styled concrete and garden edging, it's all there.

Life outside by STEVENSON

Resene Topspin

^ Soft lavender shades and rambling gardens are evocative of the Mediterranean.

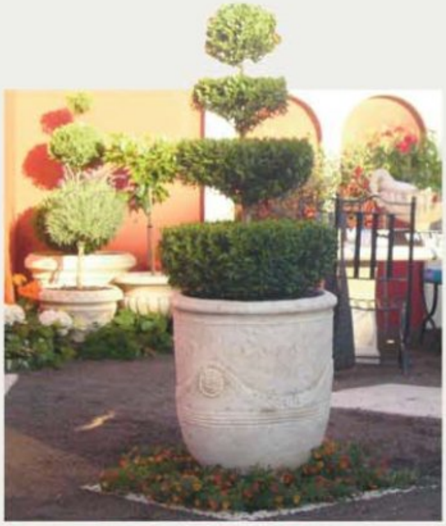
Resene Black White

illustration Bruce Bryant

>

Stevenson Ezi Wall

www.stevenson.co.nz
0800 BLOCKS



>>

olive pot

Phoenix Italia
www.phoenixitalia.co.nz

<

Hollywood Juniper 'Kaizuka'

>

Carpet rose

Stevenson Veneto pavers
in colour Grigio

www.stevenson.co.nz
0800 BLOCKS

Mauve geranium

Resene Breathless

Resene Noosa

Resene Wicked

Resene Lifesaver

Tania Barke

of Through the Garden Gate Landscape Design, suggests this Mediterranean-inspired solution:

Creating a walled garden provides protection from strong winds and gives a more comfortable, intimate space. Painted in pretty lavender and inset with purple backlit glass blocks the Stevenson's block wall has a wooden door set into it to add a sense of mystery, while maintaining good flow around the property. The large area is sloped so can be split in two with Stevenson Ezi Wall, and paved in Veneto pavers, colour Grigio. The strong lines of the garden are off-set by informal planting including rambling pink carpet roses, thyme groundcover and low kaffir lime hedges. Predominant colours in the garden are pink, purple, silver and greens. The lines of the French doors are repeated in the circular columns supporting one side of the pergola, tying both sides of the garden together.

mobile 027 287 8592 **email** tandl@xtra.co.nz

^ Crisp lines and highly usable outdoor areas will make summer living a pleasure.

Life outside by STEVENSON

Resene Coconut Cream

illustration Bruce Bryant

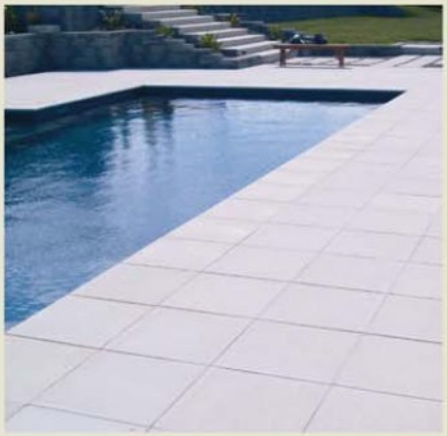
<

Stevenson Ezi Wall
in colour Rock Salt

www.stevenson.co.nz
0800 BLOCKS

>

Stevenson Veneto paver
in colour Bianco



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Sam Lockie

from Landscape Transformations
proposes this alternative scheme:

Strong structural elements help draw the living space out into the landscape of this large property. The fireplace and large cabana cover over a spa pool create areas that can be used in all seasons – the cabana could have zip-down PVC sides. Large hedging gives protection from prevailing winds and a sense of intimacy. Large Stevenson Veneto paver stepping-stones help provide interest without too much visual clutter. Pillar conifers or camellia topiary provide a tidy planting theme that also helps soften the otherwise hard structures such as pool fencing and paved areas. Large steps from the French doors give a more gentle transition from the house while small and simple pergolas off the house add interest.

phone 09 480 8141 **email** sam@landscapetransformations.co.nz

book boosts eco building

A new book on building sustainability is the first comprehensive publication of its type for New Zealand.

The issue of environmental sustainability has now moved from a fringe to a central position of public concern. And while we may carry our groceries in reusable bags, and recycle our glass, paper and plastics, a more holistic approach starts much earlier on – when we design and construct our homes and buildings.

It is estimated that the building sector uses roughly half of all the energy generated in this country, a very high proportion of materials and creates huge volumes of landfill wastes. This means that to make a difference we need to look at how we build, how we can reduce energy use and costs, how we future proof our buildings and minimise their carbon footprint.

Earlier this year, the building sector received a boost with the launch of the first comprehensive book on this subject, *A Deeper Shade of Green: Sustainable Urban Development, Building and Architecture in New Zealand*, edited by Johann Bernhardt.

Green building concepts have been applied for many years and environmentally friendly houses and buildings can be found across the country. But existing regulations, prevailing technologies and building materials, general levels of expertise, and conventional investment considerations have not helped to achieve high levels of sustainability.

Apart from a few notable exceptions, the level of sustainability we have achieved locally so far must be classified as a 'light shade of green', says Johann, who is also a sustainable architect. He has compiled essays from 50 experts in their fields, including architects, research fellows, university lecturers, Government advisors, private researchers and consultants. The 232-page book contains more than 300 colour photographs, plans, graphs and illustrations.

This book offers an introduction into the new realm of sustainable thinking, concepts and solutions and aims to give as wide an overview on sustainable topics and issues as possible. It also offers a glimpse of what we have achieved to date with a selection of sustainable projects featured in a series of case studies.

The book is directed at a multitude of stakeholders whose contributions are vital for a successful shift, including central and local governments, professional groups, manufacturing and construction industries, investors, non-government organisations and the public.

Resene is one of the proud sponsors of the book and wholeheartedly supports its focus on providing knowledge on sustainable building relevant to New Zealand.

A Deeper Shade of Green: Sustainable Urban Development, Building and Architecture in New Zealand retails for $69.95 and is available in all good bookshops or directly from the publisher, Balasoglou Books: j.balasoglou@xtra.co.nz or ring John on 09 529 2211. H

WIN one of five copies of A Deeper Shade of Green, worth $69.95 – see page 73 for details.

Existing homes

Building a new house using eco principles is one thing, but what about existing houses? Don't despair, as Brenda Vale points out in her chapter in the book, there are many measures to make your house eco-friendly:

- Maintain a house well to avoid major renovations. The longer the house lasts, the better for the environment.
- Make sure the house is well insulated – an uninsulated house wastes energy through extra heating and thereby puts greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Installing a tank to collect rainwater is simple and effective. In urban areas its use is limited to toilets, washing machines and gardens but in rural areas, it can be used for all household purposes.
- Use a waste minimisation policy incorporating containers for re-usable and recyclable materials, and a compost bin.

Resene Feverpitch

Resene Limelight

Style doesn't need to stop at the back door

At Stevenson you'll find the essentials to turn your outdoor living area into a statement of your individual style. Our experienced professionals will guide you through a showcase of colours, shapes and sizes in classic masonry or clay pavers; handcrafted wetcast Alfresco pavers or European inspired Terrazzo tiles. Our garden edging, retaining and free standing wall systems complement any of the pavers, perfectly. Let us inspire you to create the outdoor area of your dreams.

EXCITING NEW DISPLAY CENTRE NOW OPEN

Come and be inspired at the new Stevenson 'Life outside' display centre in Newmarket. There you'll find the very latest ideas in outdoor living spaces including an extensive range of contemporary hardscaping products and masonry wall systems.

2 GILLIES AVENUE, NEWMARKET, AUCKLAND.

(Carpark entrance 35 Teed Street)

Life outside by STEVENSON

a seat in the sun

Slap on the sunscreen, pull on a hat and take a seat in one of these stylish outdoor chairs.

As a nation obsessed with the outdoors, we just love relaxing outside, entertaining friends at home, and hanging out with the kids in the garden. That's why the concept of the outdoor room or living space has really taken off here; and with this lifestyle trend has come a proliferation of outdoor furniture options to suit any taste, home style, and practical requirement.

As well as the traditional timber and wrought iron we've all grown up with, technological advances and the use of products from the marine industry, mean outdoor furniture is now available in an array of durable, U.V.-resistant, all-weather materials.

Among them, you'll find Sunbrella® acrylic canvas, hard-wearing woven synthetic fibres, solution-dyed acrylic yarns, fast-drying Dripore™ foam that filters rather than absorbs water, and durable zips made from injection-moulded resin. Resistant to mould, mildew, sunscreen, fading, corrosion and extreme temperatures, these materials are ideal for the manufacture of stylish, low-maintenance outdoor furniture.

But before you rush out and make that costly impulse purchase, there are a few things to consider:

Home style and existing indoor furniture

When you walk through your home to your outdoor living space, the visual effect needs to be as seamless as possible. To achieve this, choose outdoor seating that complements your existing furniture in style and colour. Going from a living room full of ornate antique furniture to a patio furnished with streamlined modern sofas can be quite jarring, so aim for continuity of your décor.

Space

You'll also need to ensure the items you choose are in proportion to the space you have available. If your outdoor living area consists of a small deck, go for something like the space-saving Marine Bean. Those with more room can opt for more substantial pieces that won't be overpowered by the scale of the garden.

Lifestyle

Select furniture that will suit your lifestyle now and into the future. Consider who uses your outdoor living space and how. A dining >

Left Gracing ocean liners and luxury resorts, Dedon's eye-catching furniture is made from hand-woven, thru-dyed synthetic fibre that's resistant to salt water, chlorine, sun creams and U.V. light. Pictured is the Orbit, available from Domo Collections.

www.domo.co.nz or phone 09 921 5574 or 03 379 8818.

words Deirdre Coleman

Above and right The Danish Cane-Line range is hand-woven from easy-care fully dyed polyethylene Hularo® fibres. Strong and hard-wearing, this synthetic material is colourfast, water repellent and frost proof. Pictured is the Chester and Kingston, both in black. Available from Xteriors off Broadway. www.outdoorfurniture.co.nz or ph 09 529 5102.

Resene Blake

Resene Shipshape

Left Made in New Zealand, Solaire upholstered outdoor furniture is designed to withstand our harsh environment. It features 100% solution-dyed acrylic yarns that are quick-drying, breathable and resistant to mildew, with DriPore™ foam and treated timber frames that have a five-year warranty. Pictured is the Arc Chaise. www.solairefurniture.com or ph 09 537 6541.

Below Kuadro chairs by Solaire.

table and matching chairs is the best option for alfresco dining, while comfortable chairs or sofas work great with a low coffee table for those who enjoy relaxing with a book or socialising with friends. If you'll be going straight from the pool to your outdoor chairs, choose a fabric that can handle chlorinated water and sunscreen. Kids and pets can be rough on home furnishings, so go for materials and designs that will stand up to rigorous wear.

"Consider who uses your outdoor living space and how."

Environment

Coastal locations are exposed to harsh conditions, including spray and salt-laden winds that will corrode metal fixings and framing. When it comes to choosing metal furniture for a beach setting, stainless steel is the best option, followed closely by galvanised steel with a paint finish. If you live on a busy urban street, your outdoor furniture will be subjected to road grime and require regular cleaning, so look for something you can easily hose or wipe down. North and west-facing outdoor areas receive a lot of sunlight, and the associated U.V. rays can break down certain materials.

Practicalities

If you'll be storing your outdoor furniture in a shed or garage during winter, remember that stackable or folding pieces take up the least space. If you want or need to regularly reposition your seating, select lightweight furniture that's easy to lift. Also, bear in mind that any damage to painted-steel framing will expose the metal to rust, which means it's important to avoid bangs and scrapes.

Whatever outdoor furniture you settle on, think beyond the approaching summer. By choosing well-constructed, hard-wearing pieces you'll achieve the best value for money and have furniture that will last for decades. >

Above The Tate Chair and Footstool by Solaire.

Above The Marine Bean from New Zealand manufacturer Coast is a stylish, comfortable and casual seating option. Finished in Sunbrella® fabric and Mokum's outdoor range, it comes in several sizes and formats, with matching ottomans and cushions, in a choice of great colours. Ph 0800 45 45 45 or www.coastnewzealand.com.

Top right Inspired by French woven-metal furniture of the late 19th century, the Le Jardin collection is all galvanised with four paint finishes for an aged look. Available through Domo Collections, www.domo.co.nz or ph 09 921 5574 or 03 379 8818.

Above right The Cayo Outdoor range is made from stained Victorian Ash, and upholstered in removable Sunbrella® fabric cushions. Available from Eon, www.eon.co.nz or ph 09 368 4860.

Below and right The Viro range of outdoor furniture is U.V. and weather resistant, strong, washable, recyclable and has a natural look and feel. This is the Miami Extension chair in Black and the Yin Yang chair and ottoman in Driftwood. Both from May Time Marketing, ph 0800 MAYTIME.

Looking good

Like shining your shoes or polishing your interior woodwork, oiling your deck and furniture regularly will keep it looking its natural best while providing protection against the ravages of water, fungi and ultraviolet light. Popular amongst those who prefer the lightly oiled look to the more heavily pigmented stain finish, Resene Furniture and Decking Oil is quick and easy to apply. Recommended for annual application to decks and furniture, the product will help with water repellency and maintain timber in good condition.

Resene Kwila Timber Stain is designed for use on new and weathered timber decks and furniture to enhance and restore the timber colour and provide protection against water, fungi, and ultraviolet light.

Or try new Resene Timber and Furniture Gel, which is a non-drip, easy-to-apply, waterborne gel-stain designed for use on a variety of new and weathered timber surfaces, including furniture, both inside and out. It's available in four colours from Resene. H

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words Sandra Batley pictures Frances Oliver

east meets west

A blend of Balinese elements and local design creates this dramatic new garden.

When it came to creating a garden for their new home, Tony and Deb Wilson were inspired by a recent trip to Bali. Their aim was to merge the experience of a Balinese resort holiday with a simple, down-to-earth style of architecture. "We wanted to create a tranquil environment, to emulate some of the ambience of Bali using water, tropical plants and other sculptural elements, but still maintain a unique kiwi flavour."

The result is an innovative blend of styles and a garden which includes some quite striking features – like the three wavy water features, the boardwalk, pebbled gardens and over-sized pots.

Simon Stephenson, from Stephenson Architects, was commissioned to design their family home on a piece of land situated a stone's throw from Lucus Creek in Albany, Auckland. "It was important to have the landscape designed and built at the same time as the house so that there was a cohesive, unifying result," says Tony.

Tony and Deb collaborated on the design of the garden with landscape contractor John Eagleton from Outside Edge. He had designed and built two previous projects with them and was familiar with their working style. This time the couple wanted a more hands-on approach, working closely with John during the design process to create their vision.

During one family vacation in Bali, Tony and Deb came across a village of Balinese and Italian artisans who were creating amazing stone interior and exterior products destined for the European market. This greatly influenced the final look and feel for their new home and garden. Two containers filled with stone tiles, large pots and other artefacts were shipped back to Auckland to be incorporated into the garden.

The single-storey, low-slung home sits comfortably at the centre of the 1750m2 property, dividing the areas to be landscaped into two clearly defined spaces. >

Above Plants were chosen for their architectural merits, like this striking succulent.

Left The new courtyard and garden nestles into the low-slung house.

Left Three tall terrazzo water features flank the boardwalk.

Far left Simple yet dramatic lighting transforms the sculptural steps leading from the road.

Stage one of the project was to landscape the front section of the property, seen here. Faced with a site that slopes away from the road, two main areas were designed to step down from the street entrance. One single cut was excavated and a long low retaining wall built to define and separate the lower courtyard from the upper garage area. The decision was made to build one long gabion wall to sit in front of a timber retaining wall, adding a simple iconic element to the design.

Earlier concepts saw the top area being terraced into a series of low retaining walls. What evolved over a couple of wines was a sculptural flight of tiled steps to take pedestrians from the street to the house. A wide timber boardwalk then leads you directly to the front door. At night the steps become an eye-catching focal point using simple but dramatic tube lighting. The remaining sloping area was carefully prepared and an expansive serene green lawn was established.

"The site was a challenge but I really enjoyed the creative license I was given and I am very happy with the result," says John. >

top tip

As you would with an interior scheme, stick to a limited palette of colours in the garden for a restful result. Consider the flower colour, foliage colour and the colours of any materials and accessories introduced into the garden.

The contemporary, Zen-like feel to the garden was achieved using a strict, dramatic palette of colours – black, cream and green. "The key was not to use too much white or the garden would look too stark and if there was too much black it would look morbid," says Tony. "We wanted to create a calm, restful scene."

A single sweep of gardenia radicans groundcover was chosen for its simple elegance as well as its sweet scent.

The restrained use of colour was key to relating the garden to the dark exterior (Hackett Black stain) of the Herman Pacific Cedar house. Black was echoed in the garden using a few key accessories. Three large ebony stone pots sit on individual concrete plinths that jut dramatically out from a sea of green grass. Stylish, black outdoor couches contrast with the cream sandstone tiles in the courtyard. Black slat screens wrap around a hidden edible garden where Debbie grows a variety of aromatic kitchen herbs and vegetables, and a dark timber cap elegantly finishes the top of the gabion walls.

Plants were chosen for their bold architectural form with a strong emphasis on foliage as opposed to flowers. The garden is a mixture of tropical plants, planted in groups for maximum impact and simplicity. "We had no knowledge of plants, but we knew exactly what we wanted to achieve," say Tony and Deb.

John planted a single sweep of gardenia radicans as a scented groundcover. They were chosen specifically by Deb for their simple elegance as well as their sweet scent that fills the air as you enter the courtyard space. The arching fronds of two butia palms also make a strong visual statement in the lower garden.

Water gently slips down the face of three terrazzo stone water features flanking one side of a long timber boardwalk leading to the front door. "They provide a sensory element which was very important to this garden," explains Deb. "We fell in love with them and wanted to use them in an innovative way somewhere in our new garden," says Tony.

A small paved square courtyard is an extension of the home's living room. The easterly aspect captures the morning sun, making it an ideal space to have morning coffee. "We have uninterrupted views through the house out to the water which makes this space very relaxing to be in," says Deb.

The next exciting stage of the project is to add a swimming pool, currently going through the consent process. "We hope to translate the same resort feel we have achieved at the other end of the garden. We are really looking forward to chilling out by the pool this summer," says Tony. H

Accessories such as garden seating and large pots were shipped in from Bali.

Resene Artefact

Subtropical plants include palms and agaves.

Resene Woodstock

Gabion walls are made with rocks captured in a wire mesh frame.

Resene Lemon Twist

Get the exterior look with Resene Waterborne Woodsman Cool Colour tinted to Hackett Black. The Resene Cool Colour finish will minimise heat buildup.

Resene Sabbatical

Sandstone tiles create a creamy base.

Resene Kubrick

Resene Longbush

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Graeme Rose
Managing Director

raise it up

words and pictures thanks to Hirepool

Join the grow-your-own movement by making this easy-to-use raised vege garden complete with built-in tomato or bean rack.

You'll need:

Dingo (walk-behind digger), trailer, mitre saw, level, electric leads and RCD power box, personal protection equipment (PPE), post hole borer, nail gun, wheelbarrow, shovel and spade, lawn mower, weedeater, tape measure, enough compost to fill your garden (we used one trailer load), H3 treated timber (for exact measurements please see www.hirepool.co.nz), galvanised nails and pins, clothesline wire for tomato or bean rack

Step 1 >

Prepare the site by mowing the lawn, weedeating and clearing any debris. For a larger site, you may choose to use a dingo to clear and turf the area.

Measure and mark your timber to the correct length. Our garden is 2.4m (l) x 1.2m (w) x 0.4m (h).

Step 3 v

Secure the boards on the two long sides of your garden by nailing to your uprights (we used 50mm² H3 pegs). Pin the short side boards together using H3 25mm² beading. This will then enable you to nail together three sides. The fourth and final short side will be attached once the garden is in place.

Step 2 >

Cut the timber to length using a mitre saw and ensuring you use personal protection equipment at all times.

Resene Cargo

Resene Socrates

Resene Whiteout

Step 4 >

Measure the area where the garden is to be placed. Bore the two 0.4m holes for the end posts – these will be used for the tomato or bean rack.

Step 5 v

Sit the pre-nailed three sides in place with the open end at the installed posts. Nail both the remaining short side and the open long sides to the posts, ensuring both posts and completed box are level.

Measure and cut the capping timber once the box is in place and level. Use the mitre saw on the corners for a professional finish and hand-nail these to prevent splitting.

< Step 6

Fill your garden with compost using either a dingo or wheelbarrow and shovel. Check with your local garden centre for the best type of compost for vegetable gardens. The timber can be finished with Resene Lumbersider exterior paint or with Resene Woodsman stain.

Step 7 >

Run and pin your clothesline wire for your bean or tomato rack at approximately 10-15cm apart.

Get planting and happy gardening!

For more comprehensive instructions and materials please see www.hirepool.co.nz.

on the outside

The simplest way to transform the look of your house is with a coat of paint. Here's how you can do it yourself.

A coat of paint on the outside walls of your timber home can make all the difference in the world. But you must do it right for lasting benefit. The colour you choose is important; so is the type of paint you use, because your outside walls, windows and doors are exposed to all kinds of weather conditions for years.

Timber surfaces

Timber is a dimensionally unstable material which expands and contracts with changing moisture content. The timber surface is eroded by ultraviolet light, normally changing to a grey colour, leaving cellulose fibres exposed on the surface. Timber also provides a source of nutrient for mould growth and some timbers contain resins and oils which can affect the performance of paint.

Reconstituted timber products are subject, to a greater or lesser degree, to the same degradation as timber. Many of these products contain wax to improve water-resistance and wet-strength, which can upset the gloss and finish of the paint system and seriously retard the drying of oil-based paints.

Naturally occurring antioxidants in Totara and Matai timber inhibit the curing of alkyd enamels, primers, undercoats and oil-based stains. These materials can transfer through any solventborne system to affect subsequent coats. Highly filled undercoats can give an impression of having dried without really curing.

Freshly prepared Cedar has unique grain patterns and colour variations which can change rapidly and drastically under outdoor exterior exposures.

Surface preparation

Remove all moss and mould: Thoroughly clean down to remove all loosely adhered material. Treat areas of moss or mould infestation with Resene Moss & Mould Killer, correctly diluted with clean water. Leave for up to 48 hours to achieve full kill. For heavy infestations further applications may be needed. Wash thoroughly with clean water to remove all residue.

Wash surfaces: Use Resene Timber and Deck Wash to wash the surface and remove dirt and other contaminants.

Sand timber surfaces: Always sand along the grain to remove minor imperfections and any loose surface fibres. Loose fibres can be assumed to be present if the timber is left exposed to the weather for more than one week. Remove dust.

Sharp edges on timber are very difficult to apply paint to, as paint tends to flow away from edges, leaving weak spots. For best results these sharp edges must be sanded to a rounded profile.

All sanding dusts can be harmful and appropriate protection should be worn. In particular dust from old lead or chromate based paint can be harmful if inhaled or ingested. Seek expert advice if the presence of these materials is suspected.

End grains: Always coat end grains (i.e. underneath the doors) as this prevents moisture penetration into the timber surface which will eventually crack the paint film.

Moisture: Generally timber should not be coated when its moisture content is above 17%.

First coat

If the surface you propose to paint is already painted and in good condition, then you can go straight to topcoating.

In most cases Resene Quick Dry is the recommended primer for maximum flexibility and durability. Resene Quick Dry must be used as the first coat on Totara and Matai to seal the naturally occuring antioxidants.

Ensure all nail holes, damaged or split timbers are filled with a suitable filler and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Spot prime filler when dry with Resene Quick Dry.

NB: If staining is evident after the application of Resene Quick Dry, apply a further coat of Resene Enamel Undercoat.

Topcoats

Waterborne paints are the most suitable for exterior applications as they are more durable and flexible than solventborne paints.

Apply either Resene Hi-Glo (gloss), Resene Sonyx 101 (semi-gloss) or Resene Lumbersider (satin) at approximately 12 square metres per litre. Select the finish as outlined above depending on the desired gloss level finish. Follow label instructions at all times.

These products are all available in standard or Resene Cool Colour variants. Resene Cool Colours are designed to reflect more of the sun's energy than a standard colour, reducing heat buildup in the coating and substrate and reducing heat transference inside.

Stained finishes

Film forming stains will eventually fail by flaking. Resene recommends non film forming, penetrating stains (such as Resene Waterborne Woodsman) and, even so, excess material must be wiped from the surface. Semi-transparent stains are not as durable as fully pigmented systems and Resene Waterborne Woodsman will require maintenance after two summers.

Apply two coats of Resene Waterborne Woodsman, wipe away any excess material sitting on the timber and allow to dry. For dressed timber, a third coat will be required after three months. Follow label instructions at all times.

Once you have finished the painting or staining return any unwanted paint or paint packaging to the Resene PaintWise service. See www.resene.co.nz/paintwise.htm for details. H

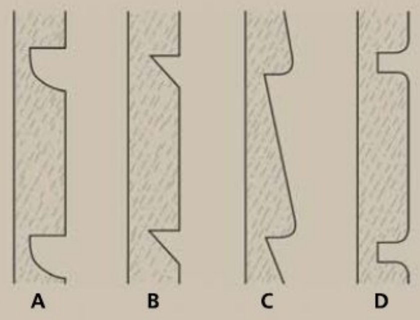
top tip

Resene TimberLock is a multi functional timber treatment that improves the dimensional stability of the substrate, as well as improving its fungal, water and ultraviolet light resistance. Its use improves the durability of subsequently applied topcoats. It is especially recommended on Cedar that is to be painted, as well as on old weathered timber.

Resene
Red Red Red

Resene
Perfect Taupe

Resene
Woodstock



Weatherboard profiles

Type A is extremely difficult to coat with any paint system. The profile has two sharp edges and the scalloped face becomes almost horizontal at the bottom of the scallop. This means that on northern facing walls, parts of this scalloped face will always be at right angles to the sun and therefore subject to maximum ultraviolet light. The sharp edges, however, are the major concern. This is because paint pulls away from the sharp edge. In paint systems this results in a paint coating on these edges of only 50% of the film build achieved elsewhere.

Type B weatherboard does not have such a sharp profile as type A but it is still difficult to adequately coat the edges, and the top profile is angled to pick up considerably more ultraviolet light than the vertical surface of the board.

Type C is by far the easiest profile for painting, and on most weatherboard houses the bottom angle is bevelled.

Type D weatherboard can run vertically, diagonally or horizontally. It does not have the sharp profile problems of type A and B boards, but if not properly sealed before fixing in place there is easy access for water to get behind the boards because of the square channel pattern between them. Any timber movement will expose unprimed timber areas that can soak up water.

Where boards are fixed other than horizontal, Resene recommends that the full paint system be applied to all sides.

Extracted from the helpful DIY section of Resene's website, www.resene.co.nz and www.resene.com.au.

diy kidz

GO POTTY

Give old pots a new lease on life with funky colour. Then fill them with herbs to add extra zest to your family's meals!

You will need:

- Resene testpots of Resene Fastlane, Resene Phoenix, Resene Limelight, Resene Guru, Resene Troubadour, Resene Lucky Break and Resene Gorse
- Old or new terracotta pots
- Selection of different sized brushes
- Pencil or pen
- Selection of herbs and salad seedlings
- Potting mix and trowel

Resene Gorse

Resene Guru

Resene Lickety Split

Resene Troubadour

styling and words Helena Dunn pictures Mark Heaslip

To make:

1. Clean pots if necessary first. Seal with Resene Waterborne Aquapel inside and out. Use different sized brushes to paint stripes around the pots. Leave a gap between the colours (you'll paint this next) so that they don't run together. Let the first coat of paint dry.

2. Finish painting the stripes round the pots, and let them dry. Draw a design onto the stripes with pen or pencil, using simple shapes like crosses, bars, hearts, spots, wiggly lines, vertical stripes, checks, diamonds, circles or ovals.

3. Paint the designs onto the pots. Choose contrasting colours for extra impact. Let the paint dry.

4. Pop a stone over the hole in the bottom of each pot, then half-fill with potting mix. Remove the herbs from their containers and loosen the earth round the roots. Place them in the pots to decide what looks good with what. A mix of heights, colours and leaf shape works well. Once you've decided, place them in and fill in the gaps with more potting mix, so each plant is well supported. Water gently and place in a sunny spot outside.

Kids, check out page 122 for our feature on how to build a raised vegetable garden. Perhaps you can help Mum and Dad with the planting.

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from you...

your views and news

Racing car colour

Max has a new racing car bed, made and painted in Resene Aviator painted by his mum Jennifer Duder.

- Matt Duder

Haute couture paint

Just thought you would like to see a wearable artwork made out of Resene testpots which were dried on glass then peeled off and sewn onto organza. Also used are colour samples, brushes and a paint can. The art received a highly commended in the Wearable Arts competition.

- Larni Gordon-Stables

A sunny solution

My wife and I had been searching for an economical way to finish the surface of our two patios. Going into your Botany Downs ColorShop and finding a possibility, in Resene Concrete Stain, we decided to experiment. Both patios were sandblasted, then I painted the smaller patio with terracotta which presented a good result. We decided that it would be too red for the larger patio and this led to further experimentation with a sunray design. This was done in January 2008 and it has withstood the elements well. We are extremely satisfied with the final result and we have recommended your product to many people.

- Theo Blaauw

before

after

And handy wallpaper

Instead of wallpaper I was going to paint a pattern on the wall. I chose several different colours to try out and started drawing the pattern but gave up because it was too complex. We had family coming to visit, including two children Leon and Rosa (pictured) so it seemed like a fantastic opportunity to involve them in something more exciting and memorable. I don't think we can ever paint over the wall now - the circle of hands is much better. It's fantastic to have testpots available. I'm now trying to think of something else for all the other young and (older) family members to do.

- Keri Davis-Miller

The winning letter - congratulations!

We look forward to receiving your letters and queries, and would particularly like to see any weird and wonderful ways you have used Resene paints. The best letter will win a Get Decorating Kit from Resene.

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bold is beautiful

TV show host Sian Jaquet is no shrinking violet when it comes to colour.

Sian Jaquet is the host of TV3's recently screened new show, The Big Stuff, sponsored by Resene. She is a professional life designer with a wealth of experience gathered from across the world, and during many years in her various roles – from working in the media and public speaking, to teaching, residential social work, and coaching.

Tell us about the show.

The Big Stuff is about working with people to change their lives, by changing their home environment. In each episode we have five days to help them realise the vision of how they want to live as a family. I work very closely with them for the entire five days – first identifying how they want to live 'the vision', then creating a strategy to support them in making the changes, 'the foundations'.

Every family was truly amazed after taking this journey. Seeing what they could achieve by prioritising themselves and their home.

What is your favourite colour and why?

Magenta. It just makes me smile and it says DRAMA! My youngest sister wears it a lot and it reminds me of her. I remember someone telling me it's a colour all about passion and love!

What is your favourite decorating colour or combination of colours and why?

I love blue/green colours. Resene Maestro and Resene Muse colours in The Range 2009 excite me and I think of them first if I'm decorating. They are bold colours yet have a softening, relaxing influence in a room.

Have those choices changed during the years? If so, what influenced that?

Yes, they change all the time. We've moved house eight times in the past 15 years or so. Painting a room is my idea of a great afternoon. Being brave with some colour can change the whole atmosphere in a few hours. I've painted bedroom walls purple for my rock chick daughter and black for my adolescent son. I see paint as the quickest and easiest way to change my home and let my kids know it's okay to be an individual in your space.

Is there a colour you would never use in your own home?

Never, say never... but yellow wouldn't necessarily jump to mind as a colour I'd use!

What do you love or hate about the recent (but waning) trend for neutral colours, white-on-white?

I usually think of it as being quite sophisticated when I see it in other people's houses, but when I think of it for our home, it's a bit cold. However, the neutral taupe-style colours just work virtually anywhere and if you don't have confidence with colour, one feature wall of Resene Triple Perfect Taupe can work wonders.

What are your three favourite colours from Resene's new The Range 2009?

Resene Maestro, Resene Fast Lane and Resene Bandit. I don't know where I'd put it but it's so wow! H

Resene Bandit
Resene Fast Lane
Resene Maestro
Resene Muse

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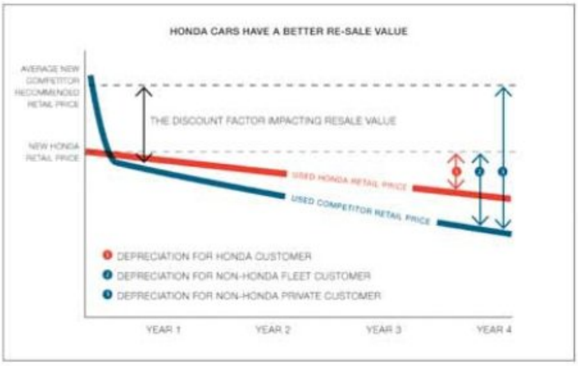

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